

السنة الأولى

Monday October 21 1996

Algeria D 0.50	Denmark D 400	Norway Nv 15
Andorra P 10	Hong Kong HK 25	Oman O 1.00
Australia A 0.25	Italy I 200	Pakistan P 70
Bahrain B 0.25	Japan J 100	Poland 2 2.00
Bangladesh B 0.25	Korea S 100	Portugal P 200
Belgium B 0.25	Latvia L 1.00	Romania R 100
Bulgaria B 0.25	Lebanon L 1.00	Saudi Arabia S 100
Canada C 0.25	Lithuania L 1.00	Senegal S 100
Czechia C 1.00	Malaysia M 1.00	Singapore S 100
Cyprus C 1.00	Malta M 0.43	Sri Lanka S 100
Dominican Republic D 0.50	Mexico M 1.00	Taiwan T 100
Egypt E 0.25	Netherlands G 4.00	Thailand T 100
France F 10		Turkey T 100
Germany D 1.00		USA US 2.00
Greece G 1.00		USSR 2.00
Hungary H 100		
Ireland I 100		
Israel I 100		
Italy I 200		
Japan J 100		
Korea S 100		
Latvia L 1.00		
Lebanon L 1.00		
Lithuania L 1.00		
Malaysia M 1.00		
Malta M 0.43		
Mexico M 1.00		
Netherlands G 4.00		
Norway Nv 15		
Oman O 1.00		
Pakistan P 70		
Poland 2 2.00		
Portugal P 200		
Romania R 100		
Saudi Arabia S 100		
Senegal S 100		
Singapore S 100		
Sri Lanka S 100		
Taiwan T 100		
Thailand T 100		
Turkey T 100		
USA US 2.00		
USSR 2.00		

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,689

Exclusive: John Richardson's new biography

Picasso and his lovers

G2 with European weather



SportExtra

Els makes it three in a row for the World Match Play title

This section, pages 12/16



Media

Andrew Neil: how I fell out with Rupert Murdoch

G2 page 7/9

Tutsis flee new violence in Zaire

Trapped in a bloody triangle of terror

Chris McGreal is the first western reporter in Uvira, Zaire from where he files on the latest tragic round of ethnic cleansing



Region of despair... Hutus guarded by the gun began fleeing camps as conflict spilled into Zaire

THE little girl's head was jerked back, seeming to stare longingly up the hill toward those who had fled without her. In the town below, young thugs pranced through the streets celebrating her brutal death. One of them had skewered the child through the throat as they hunted down people who had once been their neighbours.

The fledgling of Rwanda's genocide and Burundi's civil war is fuelling a new upsurge of ethnic persecution and fighting in eastern Zaire.

Hundreds of thousands of Zaire's native Tutsis have taken to the hills to escape their government's threat to expel or exterminate them, which has already resulted in hundreds of deaths. And tens of thousands of Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees fled their camps at the weekend as Tutsis retaliated with raids. They were apparently made with the encouragement of the Rwandan government which is keen to strike against extremist Hutu militias sheltering in the camps.



The principal victims of the latest pogroms are about 300,000 Tutsis, known as Banyamulenge, who have lived in Zaire for generations. Hostility has swelled since the end of the Rwandan war in 1994 sent more than 1 million Hutus fleeing into Zaire. But unlike the Tutsi victims of Rwanda's genocide, or similar persecution further north in Zaire, the Banyamulenge are fighting back.

Among them is Moses Kinde, who helps guard his and 12 other families with a machete and an AK-47. About 100 people in all, they have settled on the edge of a small woods in the hills north of Uvira, a squabbling border town.

"We know where Zaire learned to persecute us. We had problems before, but when the Rwandan Hutus arrived after that it was clear we were going to have a lot of problems. It got more and more dangerous until the government tried to take our land and they told us we had to leave the country and go back to Rwanda."

"But we don't come from Rwanda and they cannot force us to go because we know how to fight and the army does not," he said.

Much of the violence is near Uvira. It has long had an air of menace, but the mobs of young men parading through the streets waving machetes, metal bars and wooden stakes are new. They believe they are invincible, magically shielded by the twigs and leaves sprouting from their pockets and stuffed into headbands. Small children run alongside giving the war dance a sense of carnival.

In recent weeks they have beaten, stoned or carved up people who until recently were their neighbours. Other

Banyamulenge disappear into Zaire's notorious jails, emerging only for burial.

Uvira's district commissioner, Shweka Mutabazi, drew up a list of all Banyamulenge property and land, ordered Tutsis to stop building homes and told soldiers they could take over the houses of those forced to flee. Some people were simply thrown out. Others were beaten up, falsely accused of crimes and imprisoned, or dismissed from their jobs.

Moses Kinde was forewarned. "A friend of mine knew what was going on, what the authorities were planning. It was just like Rwanda. Men came to the house and told me we had to leave but I couldn't take any-

thing. Some were saying they should kill me. We went to a friend's house but they came again and said I had to go back to Rwanda. I've never been to Rwanda. Then they were killing people and we came up here," he said.

The region's deputy governor, Louis Ngabo Lubwani, sent a new wave of terror through the Banyamulenge a fortnight ago when he gave them a week to get out of Zaire or agree to be placed in camps.

"For those of them who defy the order and stay in the hills they will be treated as rebels, and like rebels in other countries will be exterminated and expelled," Mr Lubwani said.

Thousands of soldiers have been down into the region. They snatch the first transport to hand — sometimes aid agency vehicles — to load up with grenade launchers, machine guns and boxes of ammunition. But Zairean troops are often drunk and too frightened to take on the armed Banyamulenge so they lob mortars indiscriminately into the hills or hunt down women and children.

Young Banyamulenge men have struck back, on occasions sending army units fleeing and hitting refugee camps which shelter Hutu militiamen. Banyamulenge rebels were blamed for two massacres at missionary hospitals in which about 50 people were killed two weeks ago.

Although the government

Major joins scramble for Christian high ground

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR has entered the highly sensitive debate over the role of religion in politics by speaking for the first time of his deep commitment to Christianity and a "simple" faith which underpins his political values.

Mr Major claims that the Conservative Party "is founded on principles flowing from the Christian faith".

Amid mounting concern that religion is to be used as a key weapon in the general election battleground, senior politicians immediately warned of the dangers of intertwining it with politics.

Chris Smith, the shadow health secretary — himself a practising Christian — yesterday told BBC Radio's World At One: "What I don't think we should be doing is trying to claim that one particular kind of religion leads to one particular kind of political views."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary — a former member of the General Synod of the Church of England who has since converted to Catholicism — said he believed there were no convenient rules on political affiliation for those with Christian beliefs. "All Christians have got to make up their own minds and there is a place for Christians in all democratic political parties," he said on the same programme. "I do object strongly to those who think that you can only be a Conservative if you're a Christian or a socialist if you're a Christian."

Mr Major has broken his silence on religion to disclose that he prays "in all circumstances", in a book of interviews with politicians to be published this week. Mr Major concedes that "no one political party can hope to

claim exclusivity on Christian principles".

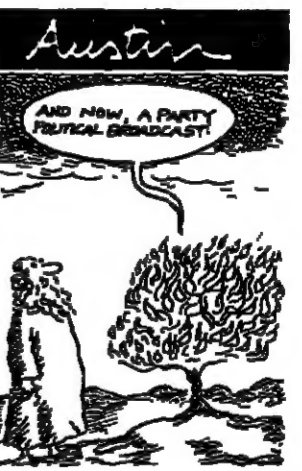
In *Belief in Politics*, by Roy McCloy, Mr Major says his parents instilled in him the differences between right and wrong and the responsibilities of the strong to care for the weak.

Mr Blair became the first main political leader to spark controversy over religion and politics when he claimed in a newspaper interview earlier this year that his Christian beliefs had driven him to join Labour and oppose the "self-interest" of Conservatism.

Mr Blair is also interviewed in the book, where he admits that "what drove a lot of Christians away from socialism in the end was the belief that somehow you as a person were less important than the state".

The controversy will be inflamed today with the publication of a pre-election briefing by the Catholic Church, which appears to favour New Labour. The Common Good, a 13,000-word document, is an unprecedented intervention in public life by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

Leader comment, page 8



Newcastle delirious as humiliation is avenged with 5-0 victory over Manchester United

Michael Walker

SUCH was the condensation on the window of the Hotspur bar on Newcastle's Percy Street, it was hard to tell who the man outside the window with a radio pressed to his ear was, but he looked like Rodney Bickershaw on speed. And Newcastle United

were still only 3-0 up at that stage.

Along with thousands of other delirious Geordies the man was celebrating one of the least predictable scorelines in English football.

Newcastle United, almost universally regarded as having an even worse defence than Neil Hamilton's, were on their way to beating Man-

chester United, champions of England and widely regarded as shoe-ins for their third consecutive title, 5-0.

Man United had humiliated Newcastle 4-0 in the Charity Shield at Wembley only two months ago, and no one could have foreseen such a result. The scoreline was so dramatic that Newcastle's city centre pubs last night were a

heaving, sweating mass of people dancing to a tune called Retribution.

Regional adversaries Leeds and Liverpool have been a greater friction for a generation, but over the past year in particular, nouveau riche Newcastle's entrance into the ring has been more significant. This reached a frenzy in April with a vitriolic outburst on TV from Newcastle's manager, Kevin Keegan, at his opposite number, Alex Ferguson.

Ferguson had the last laugh then, overseeing his side's push to the title, but during the summer Keegan got one back when he turned Alan Shearer into the world's most expensive footballer, paying Blackburn £15 million with

Inside News

World News

Finance

Sport

Comment and Letters 8

Obituaries 10

No joke, this Monster Raving Ego Party - yet

The thrust of Sir James Goldsmith's argument is that Europe is anti-democratic. In his Referendum Party there is a golden rule: he who has the gold makes the rules

Monday sketch



Matthew Engel

SIR JAMES Goldsmith's Referendum Party was launched at 9.30am on Saturday with a video depicting politicians saying blood-curdling things about Europe. They were accompanied by loud Hollywood blockbuster-type music, possibly about a crazed billionaire who tries to buy his way to supreme power.

plauded most of the way through lunchtime, even though this was meant to be a party that cared about its lunches.

In a massive organisational, marketing and spending effort to set up this conference, no one thought to provide a simple red light to shut people up.

Forty-three speeches were scheduled during the day, and the whole thing rambled on for an extra two hours, even though some had to be cancelled or curtailed, otherwise the leader's speech might have missed the evening news.

The oratory standard was actually rather high. But it is not difficult to make a speech attacking the anomalies, stupidities, waste and bureaucracy of the European Union, and the Government's vacillations in dealing with them, especially if you don't mind twisting the odd fact.

There was one token speaker, carefully placed to create the illusion of a broad church, who claimed to be pro-referendum on the subject but not anti-Europe. Otherwise they all made in essence the same speech. There was no argument. We still await the H.M. Bateman figure: The Man Who Tried To Enter An Unscripted Caveat At A Goldsmith Conference.



They applauded the whole day long, but then no-one said anything they could not agree with

Indeed, I seem to have missed the election which chose Sir James as party leader. Funny, that. The thrust of his argument is that Europe is anti-democratic. But here is a party that oper-

ates by the Golden Rule: he who has the gold makes the rules. In the hall there was not merely unanimity on the overt issue of a referendum but on the subtext as well. When one

speaker finished his denunciation of Brussels with the cry "Do we want it?" they had yelled "No" before he could get to his prepared line "Let the people decide". This lot had decided.

There were rumours that the hall would be full of drop-dead gorgeous Sicilians. In fact, most of the audience looked more likely to drop dead. They were middle-aged to elderly, the women twin-

settled, the men the sort who happily wear ties on a Saturday. It was not like the Conservative conference, because there were no young apparatchiks greasing their way up the pole: it was more like a gigantic AGM of a provincial Conservative club. There was a collective frisson when she came on the video. If there was a vote for leader, she would win it, not Goldsmith. These were Her people.

Of the speakers who were present, they most liked Edward Fox - The Day of the Jackal possibly representing the last time they went to the cinema.

But they also took to some farmer-chap with sideburns who apparently introduces something on the telly to do with dogs. They laughed a lot when he kept repeating a joke about "Euronating".

But they still had enthusiasm enough for the leader. I first caught sight of Sir James on the prom, brushing past the Big Issue seller (who described business as "terrible") surrounded by TV cameramen. He was having an absolute ball.

Then he spoke with force and relish. He used the word "we" 71 times, "our" 57 times and "us" 18 times, though it was not always clear who this deracinated Anglo-French-

man actually meant. It seems how often in history it is the outsider who most actually touches a nationalistic nerve. This may be the Monster Raving Ego Party, but it is not a joke. Not yet. But it may be a very short-term success indeed. The party has already tried to ban critical journalists.

It is unlikely that the leader's brittle personality and overstated arguments could stand up to the scrutiny of a general election.

The obvious parallel is with Ross Perot, who might well have bought a country that came cheaper than the US. The British precedent is Lord Beaverbrook, whose Empire Crusade briefly terrified Baldwin before it collapsed under the weight of his leader's megalomania.

Howard Spring, in this paper, called Beaverbrook "a pedlar of dreams". Now Goldsmith is peddling the dream of a proud, aloof and self-reliant Britain to people who desperately want to believe it is still possible.

It took him nearly 15 minutes to leave the hall, through the crush of adoring suburban ladies. The music was playing again. This time it was identifiable. It was the theme from The Mission.

The old devil even has all the best tunes.

£50m facelift leaves cultural gap in Paris

Paul Webster in Paris

THE Pompidou Centre, Paris's most popular monument, is to be shut for more than two years for a £50 million refit in time for the millennium celebrations.

An official announcement on the closure will be made on Thursday by the Culture Minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, but planning has started on how to rehouse the main components until a festival reopening on December 31, 1999. The biggest problem is the National Modern Art Museum, which occupies the third and fourth floors where more than 800 paintings are on show.

At least 3,000 pictures are in storage and are likely to be redistributed among other museums, such as the Grand Palais and the Jeu de Paume. Other temporary exhibitions are planned for the centre's piazza near the site of the demolished Les Halles, while the huge reference library will be housed in a nearby building.

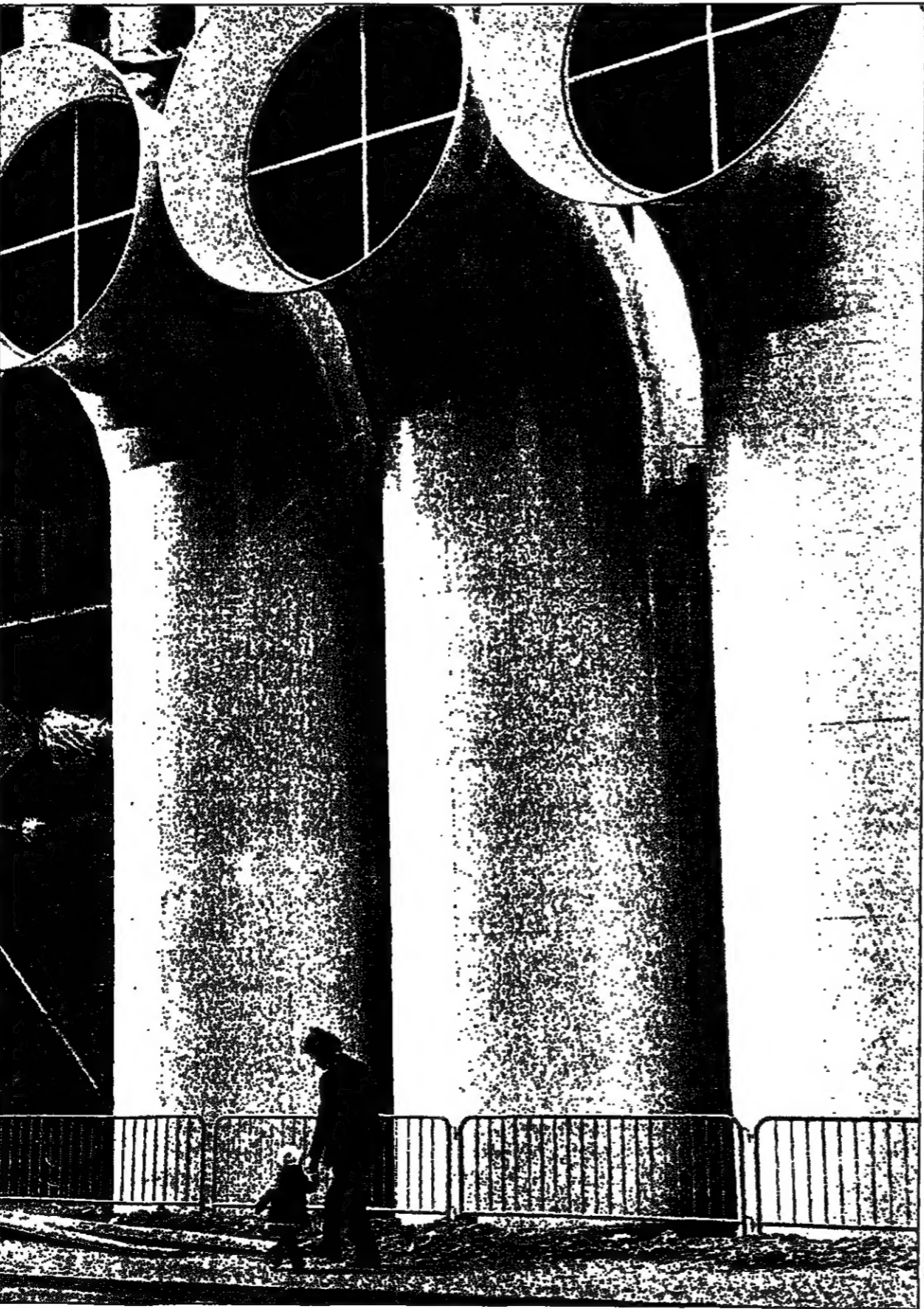
About 160 million people have taken the outside escalator among the tubes and scaffolding that make up the 18-year-old building designed by the Briton Richard Rogers and the Italian Renzo Piano.

On average, 25,000 people visit the building each day, five times more than expected when it was inaugurated in memory of the Gaullist president Georges Pompidou, who died in 1974.

Under this onslaught, the multi-purpose cultural centre is posing increasing safety and organisational problems.

The building, in the heart of the capital, will be shut from September 1997, weeks after renovation work ends on the exterior. Work to solve rusting and other structural damage to what Parisians call Our Lady of the Tubes or the Refinery has given the centre the look of a permanent work-site.

It was originally expected that the building, which contains a reference library, a contemporary mu-



The Pompidou Centre is closing for two years while being fully restored for the millennium

sical institute and several exhibition areas, would be renovated section by section in a programme scheduled to continue until at least 2001.

But the new chairman, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, said it was unthinkable that such a popular venue should not be fully restored for the millennium celebrations.

Restoration has been entrusted to Mr Piano, who said yesterday that he was originally cautious about closing the building, but now felt that a concentrated effort would be less expensive and would cause less of an upset in the long run.

"In the past 20 years since construction started, the centre has not been maintained well enough and a sort of conservatism has set in over programming and planning of cultural events," he said. "This is going to give us time to rethink the whole multi-cultural concept without forgetting chance and complexity, which was always at the heart of the project."

Since the centre opened, staff have frequently complained that there is little contact between the different sections as curators established little empires or suffocated initiatives by growing bureaucracy. Its popularity as the city's most popular venue owes much to the fact that entrance to most of the exhibitions and library is free, while the outside escalator is used mostly by tourists to see the view of one of the oldest parts of Paris from the fifth floor.

Nickell case fury at 'new evidence'

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

COLIN Stagg, the man acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common four years ago, was yesterday consulting lawyers over the publication of prosecution evidence not revealed at his trial.

Ms Nickell was stabbed to death while walking with her son, Alex, then nearly three years old, in July 1992. Mr Stagg was later arrested after an undercover police operation. In September 1994, he was acquitted at the Old Bailey after the trial judge, Mr Justice Ognall, ruled inadmissible evidence obtained by a policewoman who fabricated a relationship with Mr Stagg. The judge said the way the evidence was gathered was "thoroughly reprehensible".

The new evidence was published last week of a book by André Hanscombe, Ms Nickell's partner. In the book, Mr Hanscombe relates how Alex helped the police to piece together a picture of the man who killed his mother. The boy described the man's clothes and the shape of his face, but the prosecution decided not to call him to give evidence.

After Mr Stagg's acquittal, Scotland Yard reopened the investigation and in August



Colin Stagg... acquitted of Rachel Nickell's murder

last year detectives interviewed a man in New Zealand about his movements. No further charges have been made.

Yesterday the Mail on Sunday, which has been serialising Mr Hanscombe's book, published statements made by other witnesses and remarks by Mr Stagg when interviewed by police.

The prosecution would have claimed, if the case had come to court, that Mr Stagg knew details of the killing known only to the police. Mr Stagg claimed he got some of the details from being shown a photograph of the body by the police.

A jury would also have heard from witnesses that Mr

Stagg had been seen near the scene of the murder and would have been told by witnesses of his behaviour shortly after the murder. The prosecution would have alleged that Mr Stagg was providing details of the murder before they were known to the general public.

When Mr Stagg, aged 33, was approached yesterday at his home in Roehampton, south London, he set fire to a copy of the Mail on Sunday and said through a friend that he was consulting his lawyers. He later offered to tell his side of the story for £4,000.

Mr Stagg has not brought any civil actions despite the allegations against him. If there were to be a civil action, against the police or a newspaper, the evidence that would have been presented at the Old Bailey would be heard in open court.

In his book, The Last Thursday in July, Mr Hanscombe says the case should have been tried in front of a jury so that all the evidence was available for scrutiny. Diane Stagg, who married Mr Stagg after his acquittal, said yesterday: "We are totally disgusted and outraged because they are not telling the full story. Nobody has ever said 'This man has been acquitted, what the hell is he going through?'"

She claimed that there was a large amount of evidence pointing to another man.

Pleasures in the verbiage

Review

Anne Karpf
Man and Superman
BBC Radio 3

PRIZE the pithy, so which jester decided to mark the 50th anniversary of the Third Programme by broadcasting Bernard Shaw's Man and Superman, all 4½ interminable hours of it? It was a gesture of either misplaced purism or pederasty: Shaw himself knew that the full four-act version was unperformable, declaring that it was "never intended to be played" and adding: "I tried to see it myself once and nearly died of it."

And although it was the first drama broadcast on the Third Programme, even 50 years ago the press questioned whether the audience could cope with almost five hours of Shaw at a stretch, and only 40 minutes in the middle to repair to the dining-room.

Acts 1, 2, and 4 scythe through bourgeois hypocrisy as John Tanner, a man of advanced social ideas and languid sarcasm, tries to escape from the inevitability of marriage to Ann Whitefield, a young woman of predatory charm and manipulative guile, who rejects a kinder suitor en route. This part of the play is full of the sort of bons mots you get from Wilde.

But then comes the monstrously indulgent Act 3, which is understandably almost always excised from theatrical productions. Set mostly in Hell, it's an extended debate between the Devil and Don Juan on age, class, gender, and above all morality, which tries to imagine into existence a better new world. Contenting himself with a succession of undramatic bludgeoning speeches, Shaw's only concession to the audience is one character's complaint that "this is extremely abstract, and metaphysical: Juan". When the Devil declared: "Let us go on for another hour, if you like", I developed my own theory about why Shaw had

set it in Hell. The celebrated Shavian wit, though sometimes sparring ("what is virtue but the Trade Unionism of the married?"), is often too heavy-handed for a modern audience.

Radio 3 clearly hoped to offset length with glitter: the starry cast included Ralph Fiennes as Tanner, Julian Fellowes as Ann, Judi Dench as her mother, with Peter Hall directing. One didn't so much admire Fiennes as pity him, despite a spirited, intelligent reading. This was especially a feat of endurance, both for actor and audience. The novelty casting lay in Paul Merton as Henry Straker, Tanner's chauffeur and another of Shaw's ludicrously over-educated workers. It soon became clear that Merton can't act; things worked best when he didn't have to, with lines which sounded like his own ad lib that he can time to perfection. Some small pleasures, then, in among the verbiage, but no wonder Shaw has fallen from favour. In every sense, he is not of our era.

OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY PRESENTS...

...INVITATION CONCERTS CHOSEN BY THE CONTROLLERS OF MUSIC TO CELEBRATE THE THIRD AT 50. FESTIVITIES EVERY THURSDAY IN OCTOBER. 7:30 PM.



Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Peaceful demonstration masks seething anger

Huge tide of white turns against Belgian justice

Stephen Bates in Brussels

MORE than 250,000 Belgians marched through Brussels in the country's largest demonstration yesterday to commemorate the deaths of children by a paedophile gang...

Chronology

- June 1995: Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, aged eight, disappear. August: Teenagers An Marchal and Eefje Lambrechts disappear. December: Charleroi police go to home of Marc Dutroux...



Most of the 250,000 demonstrators who marched through Brussels wore white as a mark of mourning and held white balloons PHOTOGRAPH BY JEROME DELAY

Gun group to fight seat

Helen Nowicka

THE gun lobby is to field a general election candidate in the parliamentary constituency that includes Dunblane in protest at government plans to curb handgun ownership.

The decision by the Shooters' Rights Association to fight Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth for his Stirling seat was denounced as "extraordinary insensitivity". The pro-gun group, which claims 6,000 members nationwide, signalled its intention as the anti-gun Snowdrop campaign abandoned plans to put up a candidate in the marginal constituency.

Yesterday Richard Law, secretary of the Shooters' Rights Association, said the Government's plans, announced last week, to ban all handguns except 22 single-shot weapons went too far. "They are scapegoating decent people for police ineptitude, and they should address the real problem instead."

Rosanna Cunningham, Scottish National Party MP for Perth and Kinross, denounced the association's decision as "beyond belief". "This can only add to the distress of people in Dunblane and those directly affected by the tragedy, and I think it is despicable that the gun lobby could be so hurtful as to even consider standing," she said.

Although the paedophile case has aroused considerable anger at the incompetence of the police and judicial authorities, criticism was muted yesterday. There had been strenuous appeals for the demonstration to be peaceful - from King Albert II and Jean-Luc Dehaene, the prime minister, and from the parents of the murdered children who insisted the gathering was not political.

one of the teenagers found buried at one of Dutroux's houses, called for the march to be dignified: "I want to appeal to everyone to be calm and peaceful. This is for our children, not against the justice system. Keep your fists in your pockets."

Johan Van de Lanotte, the interior minister, admitted in an interview on Friday that the government could fail. Five bodies have so far been unearthed in the police investigation, including two eight-year-old girls who were allowed to starve to death nine months after being abducted by Dutroux and his associates.

There were daily demonstrations last week across the country after the supreme court removed Jean-Marc Connerotte, the investigating magistrate, from leading the inquiry for accepting a spaghetti meal at a fund-raising dinner organised by campaigners against child abuse.

change unless we do something about it. Everything is so complacent here. As they dispersed quietly at the end, many demonstrators passed a billboard on the back of a van that listed the names of the missing children. Only some young Arab immigrants seemed to notice that it seemed, unaccountably, to have forgotten one name: Loubna Benaissa, the only immigrant child to have been abducted. Noisily, they wrote it in, while the rest of the crowd moved past, shrugging their shoulders.

Block on new jobless figure

Shepherd wins battle to keep criticised dole-queue count

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

GILLIAN Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, has won a long-running battle with the Treasury to block the introduction of a new jobless measure intended to supplement the widely criticised dole-queue count.

background of a tough public spending round to kill it off. The Conservatives are hoping to reap electoral rewards from the continued fall in unemployment with the existing measure - counting people out of work and claiming benefits - which is on course to drop below 3 million just before polling day.

mentary question - which must be answered within three days - to confirm the decision. Last night Mr McCartney said: "The unemployed are being massaged out of the statistics and dumped into a black hole. The Labour Party is committed to fiddle-free figures and an independent review of the real level of unemployment and what is really happening in the labour market."

Mrs Shepherd told the sub-committee on competitiveness that extra spending on statistics which could dent the Government's job-creation record was unwise - especially given the current cash squeeze to make room for budget tax cuts. An announcement on the Government's decision not to proceed is expected within the next few weeks.

Visiting a museum? Get into training now and load up with supplies

Maeve Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

VISITING museums can seriously damage your health. Starving, parched and blistered, fainting with exhaustion or trampled underfoot by crowds, museum and gallery visitors are topping like skittles.

ing chair - an earlier report found lack of seating was the single biggest visitor complaint. The worst damage occurs at blockbuster exhibitions like William Morris at the Victoria and Albert or Cezanne at the Tate Gallery.

be alerted by radio as soon as somebody is spotted tottering in front of the Turners. "If a coach-load of elderly people arrive exhausted after a long journey we have air-conditioned rooms where they can rest before starting," said Edward Mayer, the Tate's gallery manager.

British Olympic Association, warns of the risk of dehydration, and recommends packing bottled water and a banana for energy. John Brewer, of the Lillishall Human Performance Centre, suggests pre-visit warm up exercises and taking a breather every half hour, and Norma Monastegue, of the National Back Pain Association, advised: "You should make use of every opportunity to sit down. It is also worthwhile taking a mobile seat."

"How could the billionaire owner of the world's most powerful media empire, a man feted by presidents, prime ministers and captains of industry wherever he went in the world, be jealous of my minor fame in Britain?" Andrew Neil on his strained relationship with Rupert Murdoch

G2 page 8

Advertisement for Compaq computers. Features a computer monitor with a price tag of £899. Text includes: 'FOR HUGE SAVINGS ON COMPAQ COMPUTERS EVERYTHING POINTS TO US.' and 'ORDER HOTLINE Tel: 0345 02 38 65'. Includes the Intel Inside Pentium logo and the Technology Online logo.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'The Guardian Monday', 'arty - ye', 'has the gold makes', 'ase fun', 'vidence', 'the verbie', 'ENTS', 'page 8'.

Deputy PM's fury over what the butler saw

Seumas Milne on a mining protest

MICHAEL Heseltine's butler opened the shutters of his Northamptonshire mansion yesterday morning to reveal a vision of industrial blight spreading rapidly across his exquisitely manicured back garden.

Barely a hundred yards from the Deputy Prime Minister's bedroom window, 60 environmental and union activists, former miners and roads protesters had staked out one of the finest lakeside views in the country and were busy prospecting for coal.

At the centre of their operations was a 20ft by 10ft borehole gauged out of Mr Heseltine's turf with pickaxes and shovels and surrounded by a blue plastic screen. Dotted around his land were all the paraphernalia of an opencast mine test site inspection, complete with signs for spoilheaps and heavy plant crossings.

Mr Heseltine's fury can have only been heightened by the fact that the police contingent called to Thenford Hall to deal with the outrage confined themselves to what they described as a "largely observational role".

The protesters, who aim to highlight the environmental and social devastation caused by opencast mining, have submitted a planning application to mine 1 million tonnes of coal from 68 hectares of Mr Heseltine's mineral-rich land, digging to a depth of 23 metres.

To their delight, Mr Heseltine warned Labour-controlled Northamptonshire county council that he would "fiercely oppose" the application. The protesters hope his objections can be deployed to block other opencast mines across the country. The council insists it is taking



A protester prospects for coal in Mr Heseltine's garden in the campaign against opencast mining PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW TESTA

the Thenford Hall scheme "very seriously indeed". Yesterday's "site inspection" was timed to coincide with the fourth anniversary of the deep mine closures programme pushed through by Mr Heseltine as Trade and Industry Secre-

tary in the autumn of 1992. That opened the way for the current boom in opencast mining, described by the Commons energy committee as "one of the most environmentally destructive processes being carried out in the UK".

Steve Parry, co-ordinator of the Anti Opencast group which organised yesterday's protest, said: "We welcome Mr Heseltine's opposition to opencast mining in this beautiful area but we would like to see him oppose it elsewhere, on

public land in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and other areas." When the group eventually packed up, Mr Parry was warned by the police he would be investigated for conspiracy to commit criminal damage.

Tax and economy are key to election says Patten Major 'must repeat Double Whammy'

Rebecca Smithers

THE former Conservative Party chairman Chris Patten yesterday urged John Major to repeat the party's highly successful "Double Whammy" campaign against Labour over tax and the economy on the eve of the last parliamentary session before the election.

With the Tories boosted by a new NOP poll showing Labour's lead narrowing, Mr Patten, who masterminded the 1992 campaign before becoming governor of Hong Kong, insisted that the economy would be the key election issue.

Asked whether the Tories could restore the link between economic and political recovery, he said on BBC's Breakfast With Frost: "If I was either Tony Blair or John Major that would be the issue that would most interest me. And if I was John Major I would be trying to ensure that the umbilical link still existed. If I was Tony Blair I would be trying to make sure that it didn't."

He believes the Tories should capitalise on Mr Blair's unwillingness to reveal his party's tax plans until nearer the election.

Labour will this week challenge John Major to hold the election as soon as possible, despite the Tories' claims of a breakthrough in the NOP poll, which claims Labour's lead over the Conservatives is at its lowest for nearly three years.

"Our message will be that it is time the people were given the chance to elect a proper Government with a proper legislative programme, rather than the ragbag of proposals we'll get in the Queen's Speech on Wednesday," a senior Labour source said.

The speech, setting out the Government's legislative programme for the forthcoming session, will be centred around five main bills, with many of the proposals announced at the Conservative Party conference relegated to green and white papers.

But after what they consider to be a highly successful conference, Tory strategists are confident that Labour's lead will shrink further.

The Tories were further boosted by Labour's need for an emergency drive to encourage party members to support Tony Blair's Road to the Manifesto document after

disappointing returns in the first stage of the ballot exercise. Mr Blair is determined to get the ballot turnout to more than 50 per cent to prove he has his party's full backing.

Ballot papers were sent to the party's 400,000 members at the end of its Blackpool conference, asking them to endorse or reject the document's five key policy pledges. But so far, two out of three members have not bothered to vote and thousands have voted against in what appears to be a leftwing attempt to sabotage Mr Blair's plans.

Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, and general secretary, Tom Sawyer, will today visit one of the three London telephone banks where canvassers will contact party members to remind them to vote before the October 31 deadline.

Yesterday Mr Prescott said: "This is very much a passive vote. And we are asking for support in a way that we haven't done before." Denying suggestions that it was an emergency exercise, he said: "We are aiming for a maximum turnout and that requires people to be reminded".

Poll boost leaves Tories suffering from premature exhilaration

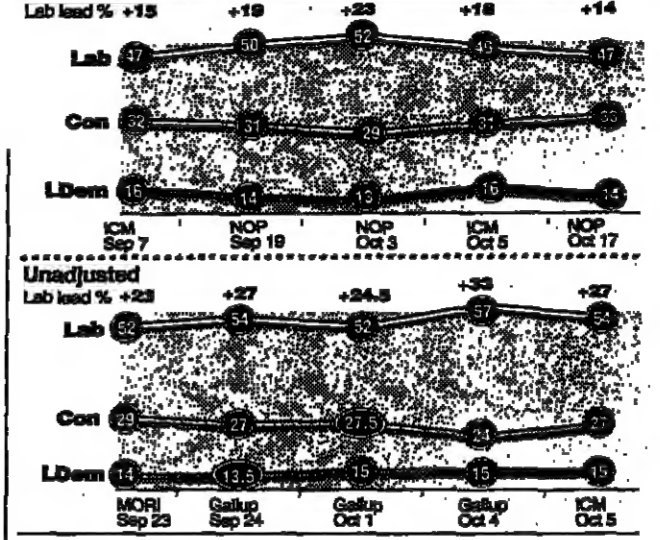
THE Conservatives would be well-advised not to get too excited about opinion polls in the Sunday papers suggesting they have slashed the Labour Party's lead to a three-year low.

The Labour lead of 14 points reported yesterday is the lowest recorded by NOP in three years but is not significantly out of line with recent adjusted polls and is not the lowest Labour lead in the last three months, never mind the last three years.

Of course it could be the start of a Tory revival, but so could any month-on-month drop in the Labour lead.

Certainly, Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, will have every reason to feel relieved at the NOP poll in yesterday's Sunday Times giving Labour a 14-point lead. That has come down from 23 points only a fortnight ago.

Poll of polls Adjusted



But NOP's previous poll was taken on October 3 — the day after the Hamilton seizure and Tony Blair's Blackpool conference speech hit the headlines. When the October 3 poll is taken out, all the other recent adjusted polls give Labour leads of 14-19

points. The Guardian's ICM poll in August gave Labour a lead of only 13 points. The NOP poll is the first taken since the Conservatives left Bournemouth and shows the kind of improvement pollsters would expect after a successful conference.

WE FOCUS ON WHAT YOU REALLY WANT FROM THE INTERNET

Unlike many Internet service providers, we won't try to swamp you with irrelevant information, nor fob you off with a solution that doesn't match your needs. Instead, we start with a blank canvas and establish exactly what you want before giving advice. That way, your understanding of your business coupled with our knowledge of the big Internet picture, combine to ensure perfect results.

We're so sure of our consultative approach that we've produced our own guide to The Fine Art of the Internet. In it, you'll find advice on choosing Internet Services, how to meet your business requirements, and tips and techniques for maximising Internet effectiveness.

0500 577 100

PSINet YOUR INTERNET BUSINESS PARTNER

THE FINE ART OF THE INTERNET

Phone 0500 577 100 to request your FREE guide and to register for future PSINet events. Alternatively request more information on <http://www.uk.psi.net/marketing.html>

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

A PUBLIC APOLOGY TO BT.

SORRY. STILL 20% CHEAPER

No-one likes having their thunder stolen. So, sorry BT. We're still at least 20% cheaper for international calls weekday evenings and all weekend. For details FreeCall 0500 500 366.

Mercury SmartCall

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Prices and savings correct as at 8 October 1996, compared against BT's basic rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 6pm-8am weekdays and any time at weekends. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £3.75 (inc. VAT)



RUST and rot are threatening Southport Pier (above), the second longest in Britain and the inspiration for dozens of Victorian cast-iron seaside fantasies. *writes Maryn Halsall.* The Grade II listed structure, which heralded the high watermark of seaside pier construction, faces demolition without significant lottery funding.

A spokesman for the National Piers Society, Martin Easdown, speaking about the crisis facing the 136-year-old corroding giant, said: "Southport Pier is now the most threatened of all."
Mike Swift, spokesman for the Southport Pier Trust, said that without a £2.7 million heritage lottery fund

contribution towards the £3.7 million renovation programme "it's literally the end of the pier. It's not brinkmanship; this is make or break time for a famous landmark. It's got past putting sticking plaster over the cracks."
PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

News in brief
Terminally ill man found murdered

POLICE last night appealed for help to trace the killer of a terminally ill man who was found tied up and shot only hours after being released from hospital to spend his last days at home. Det Insp Alan Gimes said the murder of Jeremy Debonnaire, aged 45, was an "appalling attack" on a victim who was debilitated by a respiratory disorder who would not have been able to offer any resistance.
Inspector Gimes said: "This is one of the worst killings that I have ever encountered. Force was used that was completely unnecessary because the victim was almost too weak to walk. He knew he was dying and had been released home so that he could pass away in peace."
Mr Debonnaire was found tied up and shot at his home in Bearsted, Kent, on Friday night by a friend who had called to see him. Police said they could find no motive for the killing. — Alan Watkins

£11m drugs seized at Dover

CUSTOMS officers have seized smuggled drugs with a street value of more than £11 million. It was disclosed yesterday. The drugs were found early on Saturday by Customs and Excise officers at Dover, Kent, in a lorry being driven by a Belgian.
Frank Jack Morris Smets, aged 29, from Zilverdam, was detained after 12 kilos of cocaine, 80 kilos of ecstasy, 50 kilos of amphetamines and 300 kilos of cannabis resin were discovered in the back of his lorry. They would have had a street value of more than £11 million, a Customs and Excise spokesman said.
It is understood that Mr Smets had driven from Italy on Thursday with a cargo of refrigerators for delivery in Holland today, but paid £800 for the ferry crossing and used the lorry to transport the drugs to Dover. It is thought that his employers knew nothing of the drugs. He will appear before Dover magistrates today. A further £2 million worth of various drugs was seized by customs officers at Dover at the weekend.

MP's plea on Maze escaper

ULSTER Unionist MP Ken Maginnis is to raise in the House of Commons the case of an IRA terrorist who escaped from The Maze prison in the mass break-out of 1983 and is living openly at Siligo, in the Republic. He will also raise the matter with the Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, and the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, at the multi-party talks in Belfast today.
Last night police in Belfast would say only that they had interviewed Dermot McNally, aged 39, who was serving three life sentences for IRA-related offences before the escape.
A senior RUC officer said they would apply for McNally to be extradited to Northern Ireland, but he did not hold out much hope of success. Two other escapers, James Clarke and Dermot Finncane, were freed by Ireland's supreme court in Dublin in 1980 after they claimed they could face violence from prison officers in the North if they were handed over. — Kevin Kelly

Widow dismisses bill plan

Sperm row woman pins hopes on court battle rather than MPs

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

DLANE Blood, the widow fighting to have her dead husband's baby, last night poured cold water on speculation that a Private Members' Bill would clear the way for her to have her wish.
She said it was "fantastic" news that a bill was likely to be introduced, but added: "It will help others, but I don't think it will help me."
Following press reports that the Government would not oppose a bill, "everybody's ringing up and saying 'congratulations, you've won' but it's far from that," she said from her home in Worksop, Nottinghamshire.
A bill could be introduced in the Lords by the fertility expert Lord Wilson, or in the Commons by the Labour MP Joan Lester. A Department of Health spokesman said the Government would

not oppose a bill, but would take a "neutral" line.
But even if the general election does not intervene, the limited time available for Private Members' Bills means that a bill would have little chance of getting through without active government support.
On Friday the High Court rejected Mrs Blood's challenge to a refusal by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to allow her to be inseminated with sperm taken from her husband, Stephen, as he lay in a coma 18 months ago, because he had not given written consent.

999 call howlers are no sick jokes

John Ezard

THE man who called an ambulance because he had an eyelash stuck in one eye steps out on the pages of urban folk myth into real life today.
So does the woman who dialled 999 because she felt dizzy after driving round a roundabout... and the child alarmed at "green liquid coming out of his nose when he blows it".

In the last two years all three have been logged as "inappropriate callers" in report sheets of the London Ambulance Service, which has voiced official concern about the number of unnecessary calls.
With 27 other new items in the annals of hypochondria and domestic drama they have been collected by London ambulance man Dave Glasville, for a new book of NBS mishaps, misunderstandings and howlers.
Mr Glasville, from Haldstead, Essex, said last night: "They may seem amusing but they are less

Benefits of redundancy

MANY workers made redundant feel loss of employment has brought them closer to their families, according to a survey. This was an otherwise traumatic experience in most cases, says the survey by the South of England, where 80 per cent of those interviewed said redundancy had had a positive effect on family relationships.
In the North the figure dropped to 30 per cent, according to the nationwide Annual Family Survey, which examines the effect of job loss upon family relationships and general state of mind. Tony Gould, managing director of Drake Beam Morin, the career management consultants that conducted the survey, said he was puzzled by the difference in attitude between North and South.
The survey of 188 redundant people across the UK, revealed 43 per cent were doing more household chores and 26 per cent were contributing more to the care of their children.

Aberfan disaster recalled

VILLAGERS in Aberfan, Mid Glamorgan, will hold a candlelit vigil today to mark the 30th anniversary of the disaster which wiped out a generation of children. Parents and relatives of the 116 youngsters killed when a coal tip collapsed on their school will gather to lay flowers on the victims' graves.

Lottery rollover

THERE were no winners of last week's £9.8 million National Lottery jackpot, so it will roll over to a predicted £20 million next week.
Twenty-two people chose five of the winning balls plus the bonus ball, winning £155,251. The numbers were 13, 34, 48, 10, 39 and 31, with a bonus ball of 33.

Rail death of boy, 5, brings calls for more safety and parental control

Sue Quinn

THE death yesterday of a five-year-old boy on a railway line in Merseyside has prompted calls for improved trackside security and greater vigilance by parents.
Andrew Hall's body was found on the New Brighton to Liverpool line near Birken-

head Park station. British Transport Police believe the boy, who was pronounced dead by paramedics on the scene, was electrocuted after touching a live rail.
Last week an eight-year-old boy was electrocuted on the Liverpool to Ormskirk line. Another boy, aged 16, was electrocuted by an overhead cable last month as he tried to

jump from a bridge on to a train at Edge Hill station, Liverpool.
A spokesman for Railtrack, which is responsible for railway security, said: "We go to great lengths to ensure that lines are safe. Unfortunately there is nothing we can do about irresponsible parents. Responsibility for children starts in the home.

Jane Kennedy, the Labour MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, called on Railtrack to improve security by repairing damaged fences more quickly. "Schools, parents and the rail company have to work together," she said.
"Fences must be mended. Trackside security needs to be stepped up. Everyone has to make a concerted effort."

Entertainments & Travel advertisement containing various theatre listings for London, including venues like Wyndham's Theatre, Sunset Boulevard, and Royal Shakespeare Company, along with opera and flight market information.

New chief backs Nato

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S new security chief, Ivan Rybkin, appeared to signal a shift towards a less hostile Kremlin stance on Nato enlargement yesterday in one of his first interviews since replacing Alexander Lebed.

Mr Rybkin, a politically moderate civilian, was appointed security council secretary by President Boris Yeltsin on Saturday. Speaking on the radio station Echo Moskvy yesterday, Mr Rybkin said: "It is impossible to imagine Europe without a system of collective security, which must necessarily, with the participation of the United States."

Most Russian policymakers still see Nato as an anachronism, and advocate its replacement by an all-European system based on the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Mr Rybkin also challenged the East-West confrontation on which Russia's military deployment is still largely based. "Now there is a real threat from the south," he said, presumably referring to militant Islamists, adding that it threatened European as well as Russian security.

Mr Yeltsin has entrusted Mr Rybkin with stewardship of the Chechen peace process begun by General Lebed before his sacking last week.

"The Khasavyurt peace accord reached by Alexander Lebed was a great and important deed. I am against those who wish to overturn it," Mr Rybkin said.

Though the separatist movement bitterly regrets the departure of Gen Lebed, whom they trusted as a man prepared to fight in the Kremlin for peace, they will be relieved by his replacement's relative neutrality.

Sources at the Russian headquarters in Chechnya told Interfax news agency yesterday that troop withdrawals would continue as scheduled.

Mr Rybkin, aged 50, is a left-leaning centrist with an agrarian background. He chaired the lower house of parliament, the Duma, from early 1994 to late 1995.

Gen Lebed was scathing about his successor, saying the security council would "turn into a quiet bureaucratic office that no one will know about". This is exactly what Russia's rulers want.

A crisis threatens his pet project but Germany's leader basks in adulation from the party, writes **Ian Traynor** in Hanover

King Kohl ignores crown of thorns

HELMUT KOHL will be embraced this morning by more than 1,000 of the party faithful, a week before he becomes Germany's longest-serving post-war chancellor, despite a budgetary fiasco that threatens to undermine his pet project of European integration.

The budget emergency and its potential to wreck the proposed single European currency will not be allowed to sully his rapturous reception. Since the government last month presented its draft budget for next year — the benchmark year for the single currency — there have been regular disclosures of poor arithmetic, gaping financial holes and hastily revised plans. The effect has been to paint a picture of a coalition in disarray, panicking to cobble together the figures that would qualify Germany for single-currency membership.

The climax last week saw arguments over proposed increases in value-added and petrol taxes, the abandonment of plans to freeze child benefits, welfare and pensions, the sums still do not add up. An optimistic estimate is that another DM4 billion (£1.7 billion) needs to be saved if Germany is to make the grade next year.

No sooner was most of the austerity package pushed through parliament last month than ministers announced that further austerity was needed. But already it appears that the budget deficit for this year will rise by 0.5 per cent to about 4 per cent of gross domestic product, 38 per cent beyond the single currency ceiling of 3 per cent.

Although European union is Mr Kohl's paramount political goal, and although he views the single currency as a key step to greater integration, he appears unfazed by the budgetary shambles that had opposition leaders blaming him for "financial chaos".

Certainly little criticism will be heard in Hanover over the next couple of days. In the congress hall this morning, 1,100 Christian Democrats will prostrate themselves before the most formidable election-winning machine in Europe, and for the 12th time elect Mr Kohl as party leader.

"The party is my home," he said at the weekend, relishing a 24th year as their head. On the last day of this month Mr Kohl, aged 66, will overtake Konrad Adenauer to become the longest-serving post-war chancellor. At the beginning of the month he celebrated his ascent to power 14 years ago, and a few days later marked the sixth anniversary of the German unification he masterminded.

If, as seems likely, Mr Kohl stands again in 1998, wins the general election, takes the chancellorship to Berlin and governs until 2002, he will go down in history as the longest-ever chancellor, surpassing Bismarck's 19 years. "The Eternal Chancellor", beamed the normally critical Spiegel magazine in a lengthy



German eyes will be on Helmut Kohl as he heads for re-election as party leader and prepares to break the record as the longest-serving post-war chancellor

standards again in 1998, wins the general election, takes the chancellorship to Berlin and governs until 2002, he will go down in history as the longest-ever chancellor, surpassing Bismarck's 19 years.

"The Eternal Chancellor", beamed the normally critical Spiegel magazine in a lengthy

standards again in 1998, wins the general election, takes the chancellorship to Berlin and governs until 2002, he will go down in history as the longest-ever chancellor, surpassing Bismarck's 19 years.

"The Eternal Chancellor", beamed the normally critical Spiegel magazine in a lengthy

standards again in 1998, wins the general election, takes the chancellorship to Berlin and governs until 2002, he will go down in history as the longest-ever chancellor, surpassing Bismarck's 19 years.

"The Eternal Chancellor", beamed the normally critical Spiegel magazine in a lengthy

standards again in 1998, wins the general election, takes the chancellorship to Berlin and governs until 2002, he will go down in history as the longest-ever chancellor, surpassing Bismarck's 19 years.

"The Eternal Chancellor", beamed the normally critical Spiegel magazine in a lengthy

standards again in 1998, wins the general election, takes the chancellorship to Berlin and governs until 2002, he will go down in history as the longest-ever chancellor, surpassing Bismarck's 19 years.

"The Eternal Chancellor", beamed the normally critical Spiegel magazine in a lengthy

pean, reflecting the general deference of the media. The chancellor has appeared on chat shows to be spared any questions about Germany's problems. His memoirs, first drafted by two loyal journalists, were issued to wide acclaim.

But it is not only Germans who are awed. On Thursday night it was the turn of the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, to be crowned at the court of King Kohl. The Italian leader came to Bonn seeking the benediction of Europe's most powerful politician. Two days earlier it was the Spanish prime minister, José María Aznar, for a similar mission, seeking Mr Kohl's blessing for Spanish fiscal and economic policies.

In a single week last month Mr Kohl hosted separate talks with France's president, Jacques Chirac; the American secretary of state, Warren Christopher; the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov; and was also the only Western leader to visit the ailing Boris Yeltsin.

But amid the Kohl worship, isolated critical voices can increasingly be heard. The Social Democrat, Peter Glotz, complained at the weekend of the barrage of "newspeak" on Mr Kohl's career. Munich's Sueddeutsche Zeitung spoke of a chancellor who was "ruling but not governing". And while two of every three Germans polled thought he was a good chancellor, less than half wanted him to stand again.

"Kohl is a strong chancellor, but not a great one," wrote the Berlin commentator Peter Bender. "He just keeps dragging on. As the problems mount and he fills to tackle them, it is going to get worse with Kohl, slowly but surely."

Newt Gingrich refuses to play second fiddle



Jonathan Freedland on the campaign trail with the House Speaker

NEWTON Gingrich added to growing fears that the Republicans are facing a rout in next month's elections by threatening yesterday to resign his post as the party's leader in Congress and possibly quit politics altogether.

Mr Gingrich, who was hailed two years ago as the most dynamic figure in US

politics, said that if the Republicans lost their majority in the House of Representatives, thus depriving him of the Speaker's chair, he would step down.

Polls show the Democrats with a narrow lead in elections for the House. "If the Democrats win, they'll be so liberal that you'll be having to stop some really

dumb things, really leftwing socialism," he told the Guardian during a weekend campaign tour of his Georgia district.

"That'll be an opposition kind of job and I'm not very interested in opposition."

He said he had led the Republicans as a minority in the House before and would rather struggle with "younger and fresher ideas" took over.

Mr Gingrich refused to comment on a claim by a Republican consultant, John Ellis, that he had privately told his financial supporters last week that he would resign his Georgia seat if the Republicans lost their majority.

"I think I'm going to get re-elected, and I think I'm going to be Speaker," he said yesterday. "You're asking a hypothetical question about a situation that's not going to occur."

He made his remarks as Republican anxiety grew that its presidential candidate, Bob Dole, is dragging the entire party to defeat.

The latest CNN/USA Today poll has Mr Dole trailing President Clinton by 23 points — the same margin as at the start of the campaign.

Even last week's allegations of illegal financial links between the White House and Indonesian big business — and Mr Dole's attacks on the so-called character issue — seem to have made no impact.

"That'll be an opposition kind of job and I'm not very interested in opposition"

He said he had led the Republicans as a minority in the House before and would rather struggle with "younger and fresher ideas" took over.

Mr Gingrich refused to comment on a claim by a Republican consultant, John Ellis, that he had privately told his financial supporters last week that he would resign his Georgia seat if the Republicans lost their majority.

He made his remarks as Republican anxiety grew that its presidential candidate, Bob Dole, is dragging the entire party to defeat.

even gaining ground in the conservative strongholds of the South.

Mr Gingrich appears to be feeling the pressure too. He spent the weekend in the suburbs of north Atlanta — Georgia's sixth district — suggesting that he thinks his seat is no longer safe.

His two London-style double-decker buses, packed with volunteers, stopped to let him knock on doors in the wealthy neighbourhoods of Sandy Springs and Windward.

It looked a perfunctory effort: he signed a little girl's "Newt" T-shirt and when she tried to thank him he was already looking the other way.

"I like campaigning, but it's not something I do as a hobby," he said, contrasting himself with Mr Clinton, who is a compulsive campaigner.

"He's more people-oriented than I am, and I'm probably more idea-oriented than he is, more big picture," he said.

He admitted that he — as much as Mr Dole — was responsible for the Republicans' deep unpopularity, most notably because of his role in

the partial shutdown of the federal government last year.

Hundreds of Democratic candidates are running television advertisements linking their opponents to Mr Gingrich in an attempt to damage them.

"It's a deliberate strategy of demonisation," he said. "They had to break the messenger because they couldn't beat the message."

Mr Gingrich's most immediate problem is Democrat Michael Coles, a self-made millionaire fighting for his seat. Mr Coles, who is spending up to \$2 million (£1.3 million) of his own money, says local people "are more interested in having a listener than a Speaker".

Mr Gingrich dismisses his rival as a "millionaire who needs a new hobby", but Mr Coles's success in turning his Great American Cookie Company into a \$100 million business and his record of local philanthropy have won admirers.

To underline the point, he has been handing out cookies at every campaign stop.

Democrats return more dirty money

Ian Katz in New York

THE scandal surrounding questionable donations to President Clinton's re-election campaign gained momentum at the weekend when the Democratic Party announced that it had returned \$20,000 (£13,000) to a Miami cocaine smuggler.

Its national committee said it did not know until last week that Jorge Cabrera had a criminal record when he made the donation and was now serving a 19-year prison sentence.

Cabrera made the contribution in November last year. He was arrested two months later after a raid which netted nearly 2,700 kilos of cocaine.

"Obviously, we had no idea that Mr Cabrera was a drug trafficker," a party spokeswoman said.

The disclosure added to the embarrassing questions President Clinton already faces about donations from foreign businessmen.

His Republican rival, Bob Dole, has seized on the issue and said in a radio address at the weekend: "The ethical vacuum at the

heart of the administration has been filled by foreign political money."

Mr Dole and other Republican leaders have suggested that government policy towards Indonesia may have been influenced by almost \$1 million in campaign contributions from the family of an Indonesian billionaire, Mochtar Riady.

Mr Clinton's links with the Riady family go back to the early 1980s when Mr Riady's son James ran a finance company in Little Rock, Arkansas.

On Friday the Democratic national committee said it had suspended a senior official with links to Mr Riady from fundraising duties while a federal panel investigates whether he had sought improper contributions.

John Huang is alleged to have procured an illegal \$250,000 contribution from a South Korean company which the party was later forced to return.

He also organised a fundraising event at a Buddhist temple near Los Angeles where \$140,000 was raised, some of it reported

edly from monks who had taken a vow of poverty.

Mr Huang is a former US government trade official who previously worked for Mr Riady's Lippo group. He was regarded as a fundraising star but the questions raised about the millions of dollars contributed by associates of the Riady family have made him a something of a political embarrassment.

In a television interview yesterday Mr Dole's running mate, Jack Kemp, hammered away at the president's links with Mr Riady. "Who knows what promises he made to the Indonesian influence-peddler? He has yet to tell us," he said.

The White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, said Mr Dole was resorting to "negative attacks" because he was so far behind in the polls.

"You can't do a background check on everyone who gives you a campaign contribution... Of the millions of dollars we have raised only about 1 per cent has been called into question."

PEOPLES
P H O N E

FREE LINE RENTAL FREE CALLS!

3 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL AND EXPANSION OF FREE CALLS EVERY MONTH FOR 3 MONTHS

FREE WEEKEND BREAK ACCOMMODATION FOR TWO!

FREE CONNECTION WORTH £23.50!

FREE DELIVERY!

Connection	FREE
Line rental per month	£15.00 (incl. VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	50p (incl. VAT) per min
Off Peak Calls	20p (incl. VAT) per min
Free call option after 6 months	£2.50 (incl. VAT) per min

THE EXCLUSIVE PP800!

NO.1 IN WHAT CELLPHONE'S "TOP TEN DEALS"

- 100 minutes talktime
- 22 hours standby
- Ultra Slim and lightweight
- Desktop fast charger
- Over 50,000 already sold

ONLY £9.99!

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER OR FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK, CALL NOW:

FREEPHONE 0800 10 11 12

Credit Card Ordering Hotline: Weekdays 8am - 8pm, Weekends 9am - 6pm.

Please have your credit card & the pp800 ready when you call 0800 10 11 12

Months 11, 12 & 13 of 15 month contract are free. This offer is only available through Peoples Phone Direct. The offer is subject to availability, status and a new standard 18 month contract, on the Economy or Economy Plus tariffs, with The Peoples Phone Company plc, Crystal Palace, The Edge Business Centre, Manor Road, London NW2 6JN. Full written details and the terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. 0800 facility applies to BT phones.

Mercury SmartCall

STILL 20% CHEAPER

Even compared to BT's new basic rate, we're still at least 30% cheaper for international calls weekday evenings and all weekend.

For all the details, FreeCall 0500 500 366.

Mercury SmartCall

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Prices and savings correct as at 2 October 1996, original rates BT's basic rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 10p-15p weekday and any rate at weekends. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £3.75 (inc. VAT)

With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments. Read the week. *the week* Every Saturday. **The Guardian**

Israel for E

A

099 100 112

Chirac's peace proposal dismissed ahead of visit Israel rejects role for Europe in talks

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

A CALL by Jacques Chirac for a stronger European role in the Middle East peace process was briskly rejected yesterday by Israel on the eve of the French president's already controversial visit. The Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, said it was "inconceivable" that an outside mediator could take part in peace negotiations. But he conceded: "Europe is an important element in encouraging and helping everything around the negotiations, in strengthening the economy, and we co-operate with it."

Europe — and France — in regional peacemaking. "France and Europe must stand by the parties [to the negotiations] as sources of friendship and proposals, and not as mere partners for reconstruction. It is time for Europe to co-sponsor this process as well," he said. But after the warmth of his reception in Syria on the first leg of his five-country tour, President Chirac is likely to feel a diplomatic chill in Israel, where the rightwing government has scarcely bothered to hide its irritation with his approach. Even before Mr Chirac has landed, there have been spats over his programme. One was quietly and diplomatically smothered yesterday when it became known that the president would, after all, visit the Knesset (parliament) — but stay in the VIP gallery. There had been attacks from parliamentarians over his original plan to address the Palestinian council but not the Knesset. The ingenious explanation by French diplomats was that this is to be an "official"

rather than "state" visit, and so a trip to the Knesset was not strictly necessary. More controversy loomed in the proposal that the accompanying French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, should meet Palestinian officials in Orient House, the de facto headquarters of the PLO in East Jerusalem. This, for the Israelis, is a red-rag issue. That dispute was elegantly defused when President Chirac decided not to bring his foreign minister but to send a junior health minister, Hervé Gayraud, to Orient House for talks on what are euphemistically described as "health matters". One obstacle to diplomatic harmony remains to be cleared. President Chirac would dearly like to fly to his next port of call, Jordan, from the new Palestinian airport near Rafah, at the south end of the Gaza Strip. But Israel has yet to approve security arrangements at the airport, which has become one of the main sticking points among negotiators trying to revive the moribund Israel-PLO peace accord.



Taliban fighters watch shells landing near their position north of Kabul yesterday. Rival forces led by Ahmed Shah Massoud are advancing on the capital. PHOTOGRAPH BY SANTIAGO LYON

Taliban laws 'will drive women to prostitution'

Jonathan Steele in Kabul

AN OUTSPOKEN warning that Afghan women will be driven to prostitution unless they recover the right to work has been delivered to the Taliban authorities by a senior Kabul academic. Sidiga Sidiq, professor of architecture and engineering at the Kabul Polytechnic Institute, is seeking international publicity for her statement, the first such appeal to the Taliban since they captured Kabul and ordered women to give up work and cover themselves in full-length veils. Addressing her "Muslim brothers and sisters", Dr Sidiq says: "Let us get together and rise up against those who, in the name of Islam, are usurping the rights that were given to us by Almighty God. We have to stand up and teach them that Muslim women in Islamic society have social, political, and other rights. She urges Afghan women to be determined and expect no help from abroad, and reminds them of the way the communists betrayed Afghanistan to the Soviet Union, and how the

mujahedins who replaced the communists insulted women's dignity. "Sisters, we kept quiet and put up with it all, hoping that our valiant brothers would defend us. But they had already forgotten us, and now put new pressure on us by means of the veil, hoping to prove they are Muslims." After pointing out that the Prophet Mohammed's wife Khadija was the first person to accept Islam, and that the first Islamic martyr was also a woman, she turns to the Taliban themselves. "Brothers, I call on you to listen to the voices of your suffering sisters and mothers. What you are doing now will bring calamity, corruption and immorality to Islamic society. "For the last 18 years all Afghan women have suffered socially and economically. They have to support their families and society, morally as well as materially. If you deprive them from holding solid and decent jobs and stop them getting education, they will be compelled to resort to immoral activity to rescue their children from poverty. "No mother in the world has ever wanted to see her children starve. This unforgivable sin will be on your shoulders."

Kabul within rocket range

Jonathan Steele in Kabul

ANTI-TALIBAN forces loyal to Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former defence minister, pushed to a position around 12 miles north of Kabul yesterday and hit the city's international airport with a rocket, signalling that the capital has come within artillery range. But there was no sign of any mass retreat by Taliban forces, although some commanders seemed unusually angry and tense. The rocket attack prompted a sudden exodus of aircraft. Witnesses counted five planes belonging to the country's civilian carrier taking off in rapid succession, apparently to escape damage. However, another transport aircraft landed an hour later. Meanwhile, on a road between the capital and the Bagram military air base, Taliban forces were intermittently firing rockets at the Massoud lines. On Friday evening the Taliban lost control of the base, which is around 36 miles north-east of Kabul. But their guns and rocket-launchers command the arid plain between Bagram and the capital. It remains unclear whether Commander Massoud's forces will try to storm Kabul. Earlier, they called for the city to be de-militarised under United Nations protection, fearing that the Taliban, if driven out, could set up on the southern edge of the capital and shell it as they did some months ago. Pakistan, the Taliban's main foreign backer, has urged them to accept the offer of a negotiated settlement with a joint administration run by the Taliban, Cmdr Massoud and General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek warlord whose forces have joined Cmdr Massoud's. Taliban officials claimed yesterday that, through the Pakistani interior minister, Gen Dostam has proposed a ceasefire starting today.

Toxin warnings 'ignored by US Gulf commanders'

Phillip Shenon in Prague

CZECH soldiers whose sole responsibility during the Gulf war was chemical detection say that United States military commanders were repeatedly warned that sensitive equipment had identified Iraqi-made chemicals on the battlefield, and that the toxins were wafting over unprotected American troops. The soldiers, whose training in chemical detection is considered among the best in the world, said their teams patrolling the northern Saudi Arabian desert in January 1991 were convinced that minute amounts of nerve gas detected in the early days of the war had come from bombed Iraqi chemical plants. But combat logs show that US commanders told their troops to disregard the Czech warnings. The Czech experience raises fresh doubts about the Pentagon's largely dismissive attitude towards US soldiers who

say they have fallen ill because of exposure to chemical or biological weapons. Vaclav Hlavac, a retired chief warrant officer, said that even as the Czechs pulled on their gas masks and chemical warfare suits, Americans stationed a few hundred feet away remained unprotected. Mr Hlavac said he had suffered respiratory problems since the war, and lost all his upper teeth. Another Czech, Jan Huzan, died last year of gastric cancer, convinced that it was caused by his wartime exposure to chemicals. Antonin Baudys, the defence minister in 1993 when the Czech government revealed that its Gulf war teams had detected the nerve gas Sarin, said he was convinced that the Czech detections were accurate and that they were reported almost instantly to the US. Mr Baudys, who left the ministry two years ago, said dozens of Czech soldiers had fallen ill, and were getting worse. — New York Times.



Why waste money on holidays for cancer patients?

Have you ever felt stressed out, worn down and in need of a holiday? Imagine what it's like after eighteen gruelling months of chemotherapy. Through Macmillan nurses and other health care professionals, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund makes grants available to patients on low income for convalescence and short breaks while fighting cancer. We need your support. To make a donation please call free on 0500 800 111.

CANCER RELIEF
Macmillan
FUND

STILL 20% CHEAPER

YOU FIND THE BEST BARGAINS IN THE SMALL ADS.

Seen those huge ads by BT? Pity their price cuts aren't on the same scale. We're still at least 20% cheaper for international phone calls weekday evenings and all weekend.

For details FreeCall 0500 500 366.

Mercury SmartCall

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Price and savings varies as at 8 October 1996, compared against BT's best rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, from 8am weekdays and any time at weekends. Service available for a quarterly fee of £3.75 (inc 1ST).

Agenda for the second fifty
Reforming the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS Day this week will not be so memorable as the one last year. October 24, 1996 marked exactly half a century since the UN Charter entered into force...

Yet there is no shortage of crucial issues in need of debate and decision. Today a big one surfaces in the Security Council...

The re-election of the UN Secretary-General for the customary second term has been blocked by the US ever since it first threatened to use the veto in May. Rumours of a compromise allowing a shorter extension are being denied...

Behind the indifference of governments to the UN lies the unawareness of peoples. Public opinion is neither educated nor encouraged to have a view...

Led into temptation

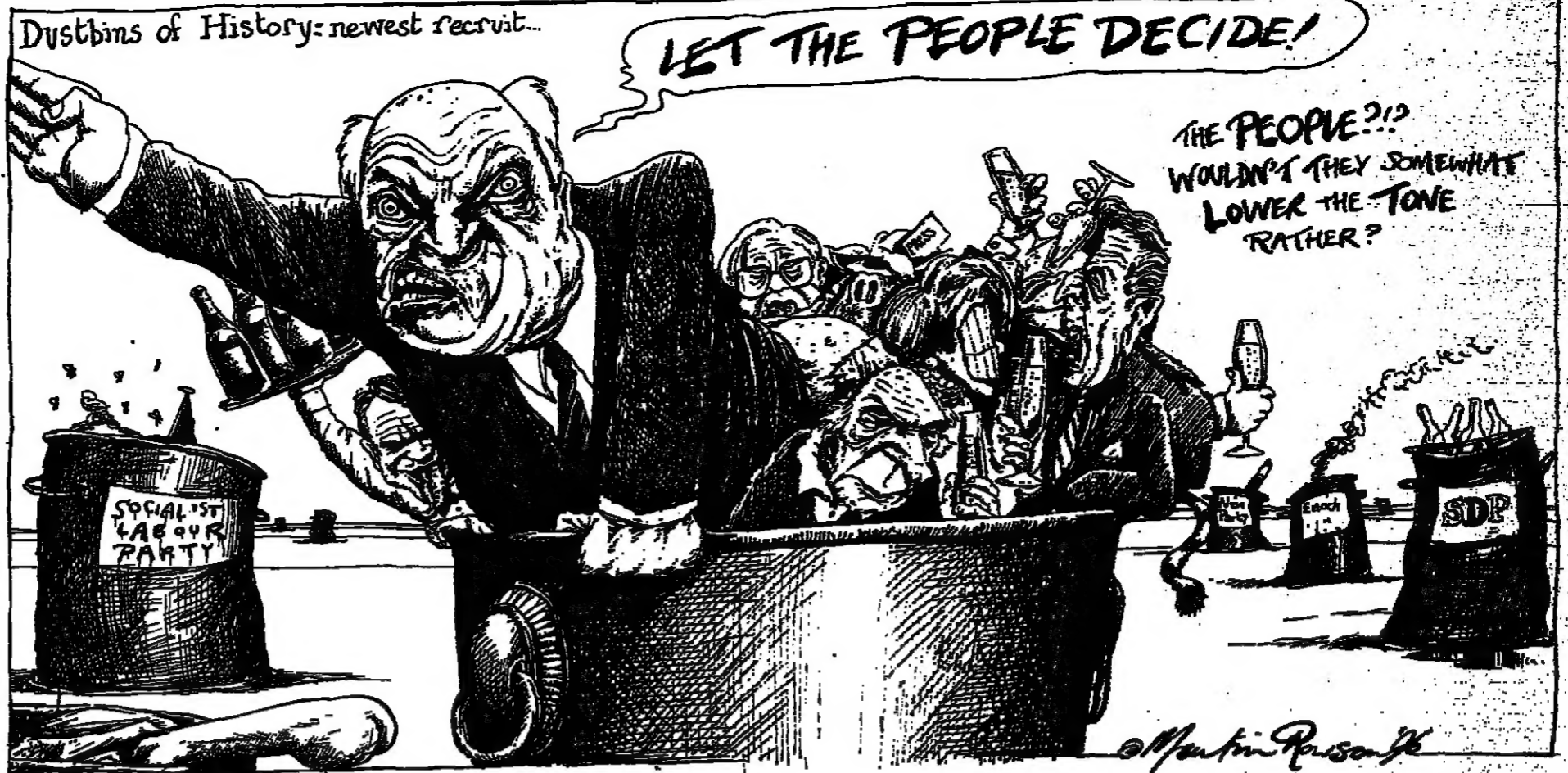
Politicians should beware religion

MORE than four out of every five people in this country claim to believe in God. Yet only one in six of us is a member of a Christian church...

Over the years, our politicians have adapted pragmatically to this gradual decline. They have gone with the flow of religious decline...

There is very little evidence of any religious revival in Britain today. If anything, the contrary. Yet paradoxically this is now an age of religious politicians...

The relationship between religion and politics will be scrutinised from the opposite angle today, when the Catholic bishops publish their much-trailed document on social teaching...



Letters to the Editor

Politics, pedals and prose

WHAT has Barbara Follett done to deserve the wrath of the Guardian? There are frequent venomous references to her in the Bel Littlejohn column...

I WAS saddened to learn (Days of wine and roses, October 19) that, despite having overcome her drink problem, Rosie Boycott can "often be spotted peddling away at the local gym"...

MARGARET Thatcher was our most patriotic Prime Minister, favouring the interests of the US over those of the UK...

SAMUEL Pepys recorded in 1660 what might also stand as an epitaph for the dying days of the present Tory majority...

YOU CLAIM that "the move into Germany will make that country M&S's main European market"...

Sperm and the Bloods

GRAHAM Miles, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's solicitor, described it as a "public body, funded by the taxpayer"...

WOULD all men who wish to have children be advised to carry a sperm donor card in case they are struck down before they have become fathers?

WHAT sort of law is it that decides that a woman cannot have her husband's child after his death when there would have been nothing to stop her giving away...

Lobbied

THE news that the lobbying company GJW has been hired by Colonel Gadhafi highlights another aspect of lobbying which Parliament has neglected...

There is nothing wrong with foreign governments hiring professional help to promote their interests. The fly gets in the ointment where such activity is opaque...

YOU CLAIM that "the move into Germany will make that country M&S's main European market"...

Labour's new social morality I am rather surprised that New Labour is not at the forefront of calling for a legislative change to allow Diane Blood and other to have children without the interference of the judiciary...

IF Stephen Blood did not give consent for the HFEA to use his sperm, I should not imagine that anyone else can use it...

WOULD Mr Blood really wish that, in his unconscious, helpless state, close to death, his body be intimately raided of that which is supposed to be donated as the ultimate act of love?

SINCE IT was only a few days ago that Tony Blair made a speech about New Labour's new social morality...

A resounding No vote for the Referendum Party

THE Referendum Party is a rather quaint selection of individuals who choose to spend their time entertaining xenophobic notions of cultural supremacy...

Their often faint grasp of reality is clearly shown by Edward Fox who, it was claimed, would address the conference on how plebscites are part of the British political culture...

IT is most unfortunate that in the growing climate of inter-dependence, both socially and politically, few rich individuals can indulge their old-fashioned views...

A Country Diary

THORPE HAMLET, Norfolk: When I used to go birdwatching as a child, it was a standard ritual for one old boy to stop me on my way to the Derbyshire moors and engage me with his own ornithological reminiscences...

LIVED at the Wandsworth Eco-village for five months. Are you content to blame the alcoholics, mentally ill, social services, Guinness and stay at home? Next time, use open access to get in rather than as an excuse to stay out...

cline of the last. With their warm chestnut caps, neat black bits, pure white cheeks and their diagnostic black "ear" spot, tree sparrows are highly appealing in appearance. But they are also gloriously characterful birds...

Hello! It's Little England by the seaside

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT WOULD be easy enough to dismiss the Referendum Party as an expensive joke. For there is something inately absurd about Sir James Goldsmith's pretensions as self-appointed leader of a political movement with no philosophy, no policy, and no programme...

Fortunately, the Referendum Party is not yet powerful enough to be sinister. In the absence (presumed abroad) of Lord Lucas, it does not even have a leader in the Upper House. But it is worse than just silly. It is an example of a common political disease - political vice dressed up to look like democratic civility...

THE association of "anarchy" with "chaos" and "violence" appears with predictable frequency in the press (How the eco-dream ended in anarchy, October 16). The green movement in all but its most conservative forms has anarchic ideas inspired by anarchist ideas - decentralised communities, direct democracy, appropriate technology...

"new terms" negotiated by Harold Wilson's government. At the time, we were all desperately anxious to keep the question simple. Some had severe initial doubts about mentioning "new terms". Then we realised that, although the people might not understand what they were, it hardly mattered. The new terms were virtually identical to the old. In any case, as we later discovered, the words on the ballot paper had little bearing on the result. Votes were cast in favour of rival personalities - Wilson, Callaghan, Heath, Thatcher, and Jenkins were more popular than Castle, Powell, Benn and Mikardo. Exactly the same would happen if there was another referendum...

love me, the political establishment will carry the day. James Goldsmith, John Aspinall and Geoffrey Boycott versus John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown in the referendum. The Labour Party is already half committed to one, but - if the parties fight the election on the rival views of monetary union - it will almost certainly say that the decision was taken by the choice of government. I hope that the British Referendum Party is no more than feu d'artifice for Sir James's complicated ego but it may turn out - through the overt dislike of foreigners which it demonstrated last Saturday - to be something worse than that. Then, it would become a dirty, as well as an expensive, joke.

Athens Diary

Helena Smith

IT IS part of the fun of living in Athens that a day never goes by without life somehow bordering on the surreal. Greece, post-Papandreou, was meant to be a boring place. But when we thought the country had entered a new era under Costas Simitis, the late Prime Minister's relatively young and technocratic successor, scandal-mongering is back in fashion. Sex, mad medicines and wayward first ladies are suddenly the issues of the day. As a breed, Athenians are not generally a light-hearted bunch. They say the noxious news (and, which so often seem to be the same) endows them with a natural irritability. But the scandals are producing a lot of giggles. Even members of Athens's po-faced intellectual elite are talking about them. In sharp contrast to the 60s, (when there seemed to be a new scandal every day), they now say they are too bizarre to be ignored. Madam Vasso, of Fergie fame, does, I suppose, top the list. But the all-time antics of Papandreou's capricious widow, Dimitra "Mimi" Liani, come a close second. The Greek mystic turned up in Athens when, after kissing and telling on Fergie the going got tough in London. She took with her notorious blue perspex pyramid, but it was the person she soon had sitting under the contraption who got the scandal-mongers working overtime. Mrs Vasso is a woman who supping that the first clairvoyant to have brought them fame since the Oracle at Delphi had set up shop in Mimi's palatial home. The former first lady summoned Vasso after publicly announcing she had fallen victim to the "evil eye". With her doting septuagenarian husband no longer at her side, the blonde stewardess has become convinced his family are torturing her with bad spirits. She says she cannot understand the outcry over Papandreou's narrow decision to leave her not only all his worldly goods but precious political archives. The papers, which document the birth and growth of Greece's first socialist movement, include state property such as letters from Fidel Castro. Determined to preserve their "good family name", the four children the leader had with his second wife, the American Margaret Chadd, have vowed to contest the will later this month. Of course, controversy is nothing new to Mimi, whose staggering rise from working the aisles of an Olympic Airways jet to being Papandreou's all-powerful chief-of-staff has still not been forgotten. But four months after the statesman's death, the 41-year-old widow is facing unprecedented demands that she leave the country.

ALTHOUGH she is grief-stricken and crumpled in public, the media insist Mimi is conducting a heated affair with Costas Spyropoulos, the nation's leading screen star. Finished with the details, Greeks have duly been taken by storm. As the drama thickens, the consensus grows: not even the likes of Aristophanes could have hatched the plot. With the government doing its best to canonise Papandreou, socialists say the liaison, so soon after his passing, is an embarrassment it can ill afford. Last week, Ms Liani, a towering blonde, was allegedly seen visiting the 32-year-old thespian wearing a dark wig and glasses. The widow's refusal to deny the accusations have only served to reinforce them. Some say she even plans to marry Spyropoulos, who until recently was the leading man in the Greek equivalent of Dynasty. For his part, the blond, blue-eyed actor has said he will speak "when the time is ripe". Meanwhile, everyone is waiting to see how Mimi will abscond. In her first interview since Papandreou's death, she unexpectedly announced she "might have to sell" the opulent pink villa the politician built for her. Whether Mimi will use the money to launch her long-awaited political career. They say a feature film starring the love birds is also in the pipeline. Given that drama was born here, the story may never be as surreal on the silver screen.

seaside
Richard Thomas
THIS is the series where you inject bright ideas into an otherwise sterile political debate. Another Manifesto will, as the election approaches, present your constructive ideas for our political leaders to consider, nearer polling day, a

Tell us the worst — we need to know

Commentary Francine Stock

YOU better take this on the chin. Unlikely as it may seem, we don't get enough bad news. The fear of bad news hobbles our politicians and works against the electorate's best interests. The environment is the obvious case. When man's effect on the planet first became a talking-point in the 1970s, it was depicted as a multinational conspiracy. "We" try to find out "they" hide it from us. The Doom-watch plots of television ecodramas — the X-Files of their day — grew tedious with repetition. Now, for fear of taking the rap for something beyond their control, politicians hold back on the bad news until they can produce a quick-fix solution. Organophosphates are a case in point — a string of isolated incidents with no grand narrative. The spotlight of publicity paused briefly on episodes — sheep dip, carrots,

which happen to be related to nerve gases like Sarin. Don't put your Nuclear/Biological/Chemical suits on, boys, they said, in case it rots them. But nobody seems to have concluded just how dangerous Ops were — or had the guts to say it. It was news to Tom King, defence secretary at the time, which was most unfortunate as he and his wife knew first hand from their own farm of the grusome effects; it seems to have been news to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health. If you discount the conspiracy theory, there was no shortage of information on the specific risks of organophosphates, but it didn't get to the right people. Ops were widely used; they'd been thought preferable to organochlorines like DDT, which killed wildlife. Farmers, hard pressed for time and money, needed the dangers spelled out in letters six feet high. People didn't want to hear. Rather like the "scientific" argument with BSE, the government seemed obsessed with getting more research, while ignoring — or fearing — what was already there. But this, of course, is the political bind. The BSE crisis illustrates how politicians are caught in the dilemma of telling an unpleasant truth

of putting an acceptable spin on it. Both Douglas Hogg and Stephen Dorrell have been criticised at key moments in the mad-cow saga for failing to boost consumer confidence and letting the beef industry slide — simply because they told something like the truth. We are used to more effective spin on the environment. The decision to abandon the review of the Newbury by-pass was slipped into the news on the day of a cabinet re-shuffle. Unpleasant figures on air pollution or the projections of increased traffic caused by new road schemes are tucked away. On the one hand, whoever is in government wants us to trust them to act in our best interests. On the other, people now believe it is both unwise and undesirable to allow government to run their lives for them. Hence the new equations of trust

Tony Blair said the first right of a citizen in any mature democracy should be the right to information

and responsibility that run through the Blair vision. But if people really are to be more responsible, then they must have the information to make informed decisions. One of the curiously forgettable things about our planet is that we live in a closed system. Everything that is or will be on earth is formed from something that has existed from the Big Bang. We can do nothing without it having an effect on its sur-

roundings. Pesticides — like weapons — are designed to be toxic. For abundant crops and animals free of parasites and bright and convenient lives we pay an environmental price — but we need to know how much. So far neither opposition party has reacted to the growing evidence about the so-called "gender-bending" chemicals — compounds that occur in plastics that mimic the female hormone oestrogen and may be responsible for the fall in male fertility and certain cancers. There is no "good-news" way to play this one because these chemicals are everywhere and nobody yet knows what to do about it. The re-writing of Clause IV includes a commitment to environmental protection. Tony Blair's speech to the Royal Society on the environment was broadly welcomed by environmental groups, not least for its proposal to establish an Independent Parliamentary Environment Audit Committee to scrutinise government action, though Friends of the Earth want more — like a full list of citizens' petitions to be signed up to in support of rights. In his John Smith Memorial Lecture in February, Tony Blair said the first right of a citizen in any mature democracy should be the right to information. It is not the government's job to make informed decisions, but it is the government's job to tell us — if that information is unpleasant would the spin doctors let it out on the streets? Not knowing leaves us back in a Doom-watch state of mind, waiting for the next environmental problem to be solved. "Who covered this up? What are they doing to us?" In the 90s, a step towards mature democracy, a bargain of trust and transparency, we have been able to know what we, not some mysterious they, are doing to the environment.

Don't fall ill if you're a child in Hackney



Paul Foot

MY LOCAL Hospitals Trust — the Royal — has come up with an exciting new plan for Hackney's Queen Elizabeth Hospital for children. The hospital meets all the conditions laid down by the Government for closure. It is in constant demand, is highly respected, even loved, throughout the area, and its dedicated staff look after some of the poorest children in Europe. It is not closed until all its facilities are available at a spanking new mega-hospital at Whitechapel. Now the chairman of the Trust — its former boss of M16 — threatens to close the hospital before the new hospital is even started. The Trust will, I assume, be issuing notices to children in Hackney instructing them not to fall ill until the next millennium. Can we be sure even of that deadline? The Whitechapel hospital is being built under something called the "private" initiative. This means it will be run for profit, with the NHS relegated to the role of "customer". But will the hospital be built at all? That depends on the election and the economic crisis which will follow. A Conservative government will start by cutting hospital-building programmes. A Labour government will start by cutting hospital-building programmes. This was rather more than the rate normally set by tribunals for workers sacked by BET. He has already had an apology of sorts — from the US Embassy. Several months ago I reported here that Colin could not accept an invitation to speak at the US Congress because he had been refused a visa. On October 16, the day after his conviction was quashed, he had a phone call from the US Embassy informing him that the block on his visa had been lifted.

THREE cheers for Colin Wallace, who has now comprehensively proved two amazing propositions: that he was not sacked from the army because of a gang of nutters in M16 who were plotting against the elected Labour government; and b) that he is entirely innocent of the murder of the Labour MP John Lewis for which he served six years in prison. He is owed a lot of apologies — for example from the Independent newspaper which smeared him, and the British Airports Authority which sacked him. He has already had an apology of sorts — from the US Embassy. Several months ago I reported here that Colin could not accept an invitation to speak at the US Congress because he had been refused a visa. On October 16, the day after his conviction was quashed, he had a phone call from the US Embassy informing him that the block on his visa had been lifted. OH WEEP for poor John Clark! He is unloved, the chief executive of the catering and cleaning conglomerate BET, which has just been taken over by Rentokil. Last week a judge gave him £3m compensation. This was rather more than the rate normally set by tribunals for workers sacked by BET. He has already had an apology of sorts — from the US Embassy. Several months ago I reported here that Colin could not accept an invitation to speak at the US Congress because he had been refused a visa. On October 16, the day after his conviction was quashed, he had a phone call from the US Embassy informing him that the block on his visa had been lifted.



A plague of arms

Oscar Arias calls for a code of conduct to be adopted by major arms exporters to prevent tyrants getting their hands on the instruments of terror and death

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton recently told the United Nations General Assembly that in the post-cold-war era the world's most pressing threats are drug trafficking and terrorism. Clearly these are issues of great magnitude and should be treated as such. But they are actually only manifestations of other, more fundamental issues. The growth of poverty and inequality; the continued denial of democratic freedoms; environmental degradation; slow progress in world health education; the social impact of technological change; the external debt in developing countries; corruption — these are the sources of conflict that can lead to terrorism and drug trafficking. These are the fundamental issues the international community must address. In order to create an environment of stability in which these problems can be solved, we must establish firm democracies. However, this is a difficult feat to accomplish as long as industrialised countries continue to supply weapons to dictators throughout the world. The US and the UK speak of spreading democracy, while at the same time providing enemies of democracy with tools for repression. Furthermore, they contribute to bilateral and World Bank development programmes while encouraging developing nations to waste their precious resources on weapons. Unfortunately, the real victims of the arms trade are innocent civilians in the developing world. While their governments buy billions of dollars worth of weapons each year, the people remain subject to the chilling reality

of poverty. Consider these sobering facts: since the end of the cold war there has been \$115 billion worth of arms transfers to developing nations, an average of nearly \$3 billion per year. Over 80 per cent of these transfers came from developed nations, with the US and the EU together accountable for 75 per cent. The US Secretary of Defense, William Perry, is currently pressing President Clinton to lift the ban on selling high-technology weapons to Latin America. It is argued that these arms exports will create more jobs for the United States. This same hollow justification is frequently used by UK politicians. Yet it seems an immoral and unbalanced equation to justify a few thousand jobs in the West at the expense of pouring more arms into a developing world which does not need them and cannot afford them. If we accept such reasoning it would not be surprising if a Colombian or Bolivian were to argue that exporting mind-altering drugs to the UK and US is justified because the production of cocaine creates jobs in the agricultural, industrial and commercial sectors of their countries. This analogy may seem drastic. However, there is no doubt that both sales export death and misery. If we are frightened by the extent of drug trafficking originating from the South and directed towards the North, we must then also be scandalised by the scope and magnitude of indiscriminate arms sales from the North to the South. Moreover, the idea of the arms trade as a money spinner is simply untrue. By contributing to the destabilising of developing countries through arms transfers, the very countries find themselves paying to pick up the pieces of conflicts they indirectly create. For example, in Somalia's Operation Restore Hope was forced to collect weapons that were sold to the Siad Barre regime during the 1980s by the American arms industry. The cost incurred by the US government was greater than the income received from the sale of the arms in the first place. The Scott Inquiry brought to light how military equipment sold by the UK government to Saddam Hussein was never paid for. It is estimated that UK taxpayers lost £562 million from these sales to Iraq. Furthermore, the US exports the phenomenon known as the "boomerang effect", when these same weapons were then used to threaten Allied troops in the Gulf War. UN peacekeeping missions are undermined by indiscriminate arms exports, with peacekeepers frequently confronted by weapons supplied by their own states. What is truly unsettling is that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — including the USA — are the five major arms suppliers in the world. To address the havoc and chaos caused by unregulated weapons sales, I have taken the initiative to develop an international code of conduct on the arms trade. Supported by a commission of Nobel Peace laureates including the Dalai Lama, Lech Walesa, the Rev Desmond Tutu, Mairaed Maguire, Betty Williams, Joseph Rotblat, Elizabeth Wiesel, Johan Borlang, Amnesty International and the American Friends Service Committee, the code specifies criteria governments must meet in order to be eligible for arms transfers. The code will seek to prevent arms sales to regions of instability, countries with poor human rights records, dictatorial regimes and military aggressors. The aim is to present the code to the UN General Assembly, as it is the only forum which brings together both suppliers and recipients and enables them to develop common principles which apply equally to all. This initiative is supported by active campaigns which promote codes of conduct in the EU, parliamentarians are promoting a responsible common arms-export policy that will hopefully be introduced at the Intergovernmental Conference in the US. A code of conduct bill received a strong vote in Senate this year and is due to come before both Congressional chambers next year. The problems facing the world today, and our apparent inability to solve them, make for sobering reflection. But the fact is that we do possess the ability to eradicate poverty, guarantee health care for all, and curtail the flow of arms. We only lack the will — and the leadership — to address these troubles that afflict our world. Dr Oscar Arias is the former President of Costa Rica and the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Away with estate agents

ANOTHER MANIFESTO
Richard Thomas
THIS is the series where you inject bright ideas into an otherwise sterile political debate. Another Manifesto will, as the election approaches, present your constructive ideas for our political leaders to consider, nearer polling day, a

panel will judge which ideas most deserve to be taken up.
GERRY Harrison, from London, has an old-fashioned solution to the complexities and stresses of buying and selling a home: nationalisation of estate agents. In his scheme, the Government would set up a computerised National Homes Register, a cross-country database containing details of all the homes currently up for sale. Although he does not propose a direct state take-

there is no reason why this data could not be accessed from a PC at home and enquiries made by e-mail. As he points out, dating agencies use computers to bring people together: why not house-buyers and sellers? To New Labour, Mr Harrison's proposal may sound statist, interventionist and expensive. In short, impossible. But he insists a modest fee would cover costs. And while Tony Blair may bank at the Government running water or power supplies, here, surely, is a vote-winner. All those who have trailed around dozens of agencies, squinting at hazy photos and interpreting the flowery prose — in other words almost the entire adult population — would leap at it. But there is one aspect of Mr Harrison's blueprint which may prove controversial. He says: "Unemployed estate agents will be re-employed to manage the branches of the National Homes Register." Hmm. Please send brief proposals and responses to: Another Manifesto, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 3EP (fax 0171 837 4530; e-mail: manifesto@guardian.co.uk). An enthusiastic response means we cannot acknowledge those proposals we do not use.

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT
Our cheque book is attracting a lot of interest
5.00%
Interest is paid monthly (5.12% gross compounded annually)
Instant cheque book access to your money
Minimum balance is £2,500
Call Luke Costanzo free on: 0800 317477
Kleinwort Benson PRIVATE BANK
Kleinwort Benson Private Bank is a Division of The London Bankers Incorporated (Incorporated in England) Number 205253 Member of the Deposit Bank Group

10 OBITUARIES

John Hillaby

Walks on the wilder side

JOHN Hillaby, who has died aged 79, must have walked a quarter of a million miles over this earth...

ful. Pedestrians for pleasure multiplied post-Hillaby. He was not originally a professional ambulant...

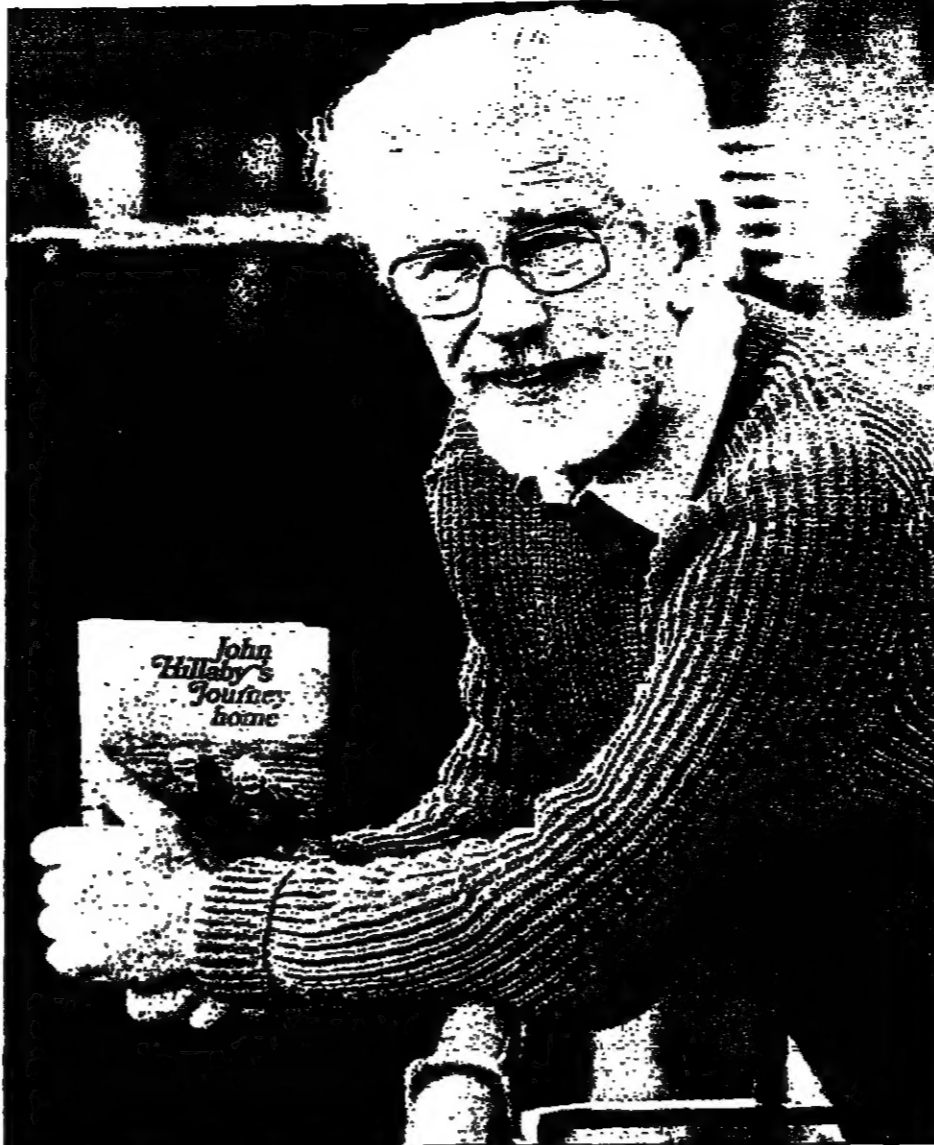
He wrote of a wolf-howl... 'a requiem for a species at the end of its evolutionary tether'

"Please sir, it is an animal with three parts to its body." "Very good, Hillaby. Bring me six of them."

and for the New Scientist, and multiplied post-Hillaby. He was a passionate generalist, believing in the importance of the whole...

In appearance, Hillaby described himself as pure, most he was more like a witty graft of the god Pan...

of his early books that they were the credo of a happy man, though he had not meant them to be...



"Solve it by walking" ... John Hillaby, a big influence on popularising walking for pleasure

Trevor Williams

A zoom lens on science

AS EDITOR of the scientific journal Endeavour, Trevor Williams, who has died aged 75...

From Clifton College he went as a scholar to Queen's College, Oxford, going on in 1942 to the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology...

the work of an individual who wrote two important biographies, one of Lord Kelvin (1894), in which he gives credit for the triumph of penicillin...

Chris Acland

Gentle hero of indie pop

CHRIS Acland, drummer with the rock band Lush, died aged 30, was born in Kendal, Cumbria...

of the big, northern teams. In 1967 he met the Lush singer, Miki Berenyi, at North London Polytechnic...



Drummer of cerebral wit... Chris Acland of Lush (far right)

enrolled on drums. After signing to the independent label 4AD, the group's early work saw them lauded by the press as saviours of Britain's ailing indie pop scene...

ent, layered with shimmering guitars and vocal harmonies. Chris contributed a galloping beat to their records and a gentle, cerebral wit to their many interviews...

were becoming better known for their exploits than their music. Nevertheless the band played on, not allowing their lack of commercial success to divert them from their chosen sound...

[their third album] would sell a million in America. Fortunately we never believed them. Unlike others of his generation and profession whose deaths have appeared to say something about their lives...

Charles Daniels

Unearthing North Africa's past

WHEN the Corbridge Training Excavation was running near Hadrian's Wall in the late 1950s, Charles Daniels, who has died aged 63...

tended to broaden into a doctorate which fell away with the transfer of his supervisor, the Wadai archaeologist, to Oxford. By this time he had already been introduced to the rigours of north African, and specifically Libyan, archaeology...

From 1964 into the early 1970s Daniels conducted a survey and excavation in the Wadai region of the Garamantian kingdom, aided by a team of volunteers drawn from the archaeologists of the northern frontier...

quarries Journal and in book form. In 1980 Daniels was elected chairman of the Libyan Society. His appointment marked a broadening of the pool from which officers were drawn...

at Houssteads, in Northumberland, which is due to be published, marked a new phase for interpretation of late Roman military practice. Another long-term programme associated with the clearance of industrial housing at Wallsend revealed, effectively for the first time, three centuries of occupation on a site of a Wall fort...



From wadi to Hadrian's Wall... archaeologist Daniels

excavations at Soba in Sudan with Derek Welby and writing articles of the forts and town defences of the Maghreb.

Letter

Arthur Scargill writes: Andrew Roth's tribute to my friend and colleague Terry Patchett MP (Obituary, October 12) contained a fundamental error. The National Union of Mineworkers never received money, either as a loan or a gift, from Libya's Colonel Gaddafi before, during or after the miners' strike of 1984-85.

Libyan money and the NUM has long since been thrown out by the courts. More than 30 years have passed since I first met Terry. He was utterly principled, unflinchingly brave and one of the kindest people I ever knew.

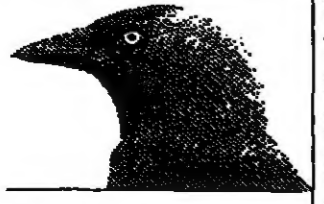
Birthdays

Sir Malcolm Arnold, composer, 75; Geoffrey Boycott, cricketer, 58; David Campese, rugby player, 34; Norman Clarke, mathematician, 80; Maureen Duffy, novelist, 68; Carrie Fisher, actress, 40; Simon Gray, playwright, 60; Paul Ince, footballer, 23; Leo Kirch, German media entrepreneur, 70; Natalia Makarova, ballerina, 56; Peter Mandelson, Labour MP, 43; Manfred Mann, rock band leader, 56; Nadia Nerina, former prima ballerina, 68; Sir George Solti, conductor, 82; John Stevens, chief constable, Northumbria, 54; Lord (Hugh) Thomas of Swymerton, historian, 65; Paul Tusch, former chairman and managing director, Vauxhall Motors, 57; Francis Warner, poet, dramatist, 59; Dr Erisie Widdowson, FRS, nutritionist, 90.

Birthdays

Unlike British teenagers, the youth of Idaho are not permitted to have sex until they are over 18. Amanda was therefore charged with fornication, and her boyfriend with statutory rape. Sheriff Mark John makes Mary Whitehouse look like a sex queen. Sexual chains in Marie Claire. Fledgling fight. A SENIOR partner in one of London's major estate agents was recently attacked by an irate crow in Hyde Park after his dog found a fledgling crow on the ground. The mother-in-law touched her son's face, buffeting me about the head, he said. The furious crow let up only once he had retreated 160 yards. Road rage to crow rage. Reported in Country Life. Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail Jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; Fax 0171-733 6366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Emily Sheffield

Jackdaw



Olympic spirit

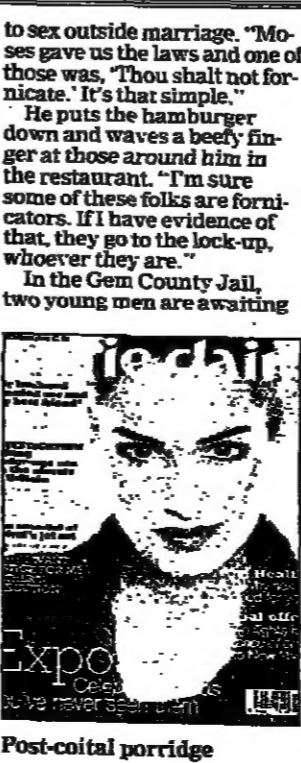
Parade announcer: Albania. Announcer: Cambodia! Derome: Cambodia... One of the worst genocides... Pol Pot... for a long time we were wondering if he was dead or alive. But anyway, he sent a third of his people... killed them. Turcotte: There was a good film, The Killing Fields, that talked about that. Announcer: Chad! Derome: A country where human rights barely exist. Turcotte: You won't be surprised to hear that they've never won an Olympic medal. Announcer: Chile! Derome: Ooh la la, Chile. Well, we have a lot of Chilean friends at home... over 3,000 requests for asylum per year. There are a lot of frauds who talk them into coming. Announcer: Ghana! Derome: Republic of Ghana, in West Africa... a police regime that is very, very strict. Announcer: Mali! Derome: This is a very poor country. Per capita income is very low: \$350 per person per year. Turcotte: Absolutely no hope

come to the Olympic Games. Announcer: Morocco! Derome: Most of the inhabitants are nomads over there, eh? There are 12 times more cattle over there than human beings. Announcer: North Korea! Derome: Okay, that's North Korea, right? There's something to note here... They have lots of flooding, there's famine. It's going very badly. Announcer: Russia! Derome: Second most Olympic medals in the world. Turcotte: Yes, but now the mafia has thoroughly infiltrated sports too... as soon as they know someone has money... there are even athletes who have died. From the commentary given during television coverage of the July 19 Olympic Games parade of nations, by Bernard Derome and Marie-Josée Turcotte, announcers for Radio-Canada, the French branch of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Harper's.

of an Olympic medal. Announcer: Morocco! Derome: Most of the inhabitants are nomads over there, eh? There are 12 times more cattle over there than human beings. Announcer: North Korea! Derome: Okay, that's North Korea, right? There's something to note here... They have lots of flooding, there's famine. It's going very badly. Announcer: Russia! Derome: Second most Olympic medals in the world. Turcotte: Yes, but now the mafia has thoroughly infiltrated sports too... as soon as they know someone has money... there are even athletes who have died. From the commentary given during television coverage of the July 19 Olympic Games parade of nations, by Bernard Derome and Marie-Josée Turcotte, announcers for Radio-Canada, the French branch of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Harper's.

military exercise in a 10ft open boat when a cyclone pushed them out to sea. They drifted for 43 days, crossing the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, finally washing ashore on the coast of Thailand... where they were arrested and thrown into gaol for entering the country without papers. A WOMAN driver who had her bag snatched while she waited at traffic lights gave chase to the thieves in her Mercedes. The thieves dropped the bag, but when she got out to retrieve it they stole the car instead. A DELICATE to the 1991 World Conference on Memory was forced to ring organisers at Lancaster University after he forgot which day he was booked to attend. A similar embarrassing lapse afflicted Tom Morton, who has an instant recall of over 20,000 phone numbers, decks of cards and all Olympic medal winners for the past century. He forgot which day he was due to appear on Granada TV to demonstrate his skills, and turned up a week early.

A FRENCHMAN who understandably wished to remain anonymous tried to buy a condom at one in the morning in Bric de l'Odéon, Brittany, and got his hand jammed in the machine. Four hours later a group of teenagers found him, but couldn't persuade the fire brigade to take their story seriously. Eventually police coaxed the firemen out, and they cut the man free and took him to hospital. A PLUMBER had to be freed by firemen after he got his head stuck in a lavatory bowl at his home in Puckeridge, Hertfordshire... his name was W. C. Sticks. Life's Classic cook-ups in Fortean Times collection of Life's Losers. BARRED sex. IN EMMETT, Idaho, Gem County Sheriff Mark John stands tall for law and order. If any fornicators are brought to his attention he'll put them right where he thinks they belong... in the county jail. Chewing on a hamburger, the sheriff spells out his attitude to sex outside marriage. "Moses gave us the laws and one of those was, 'Thou shalt not fornicate.' It's that simple." He puts the hamburger down and waves a beefy finger at those around him in the restaurant. "I'm sure some of these folks are fornicators. If I have evidence of that, they go to the lock-up, whoever they are." In the Gem County Jail, two young men are awaiting trial. Their offence is sex before marriage, illegal in Idaho since 1921, and each of them could face a five-year jail term if found guilty. Both men have teenage girlfriends who have given birth in the last six months... in Emmett that's irrefutable proof of a criminal act. "I should be at home, fending for my baby," says John Wagon from his cell. "I can't teach him right from wrong sitting in jail." For 75 years the Idaho fornication law has lain dormant. In March this year it was revived after 17-year-old Amanda Smiseck became pregnant. In New York her pregnancy would not have raised an eyebrow; in Emmett it caused a moral earthquake. Recently, the small town has been overwhelmed with teenage pregnancies. More than 15 per cent of the town's teenage girls are pregnant... about twice the national average... and its welfare resources are stretched to the limit. When Smiseck came looking for social security assistance to raise her child, she was given handcuffs to wear instead.

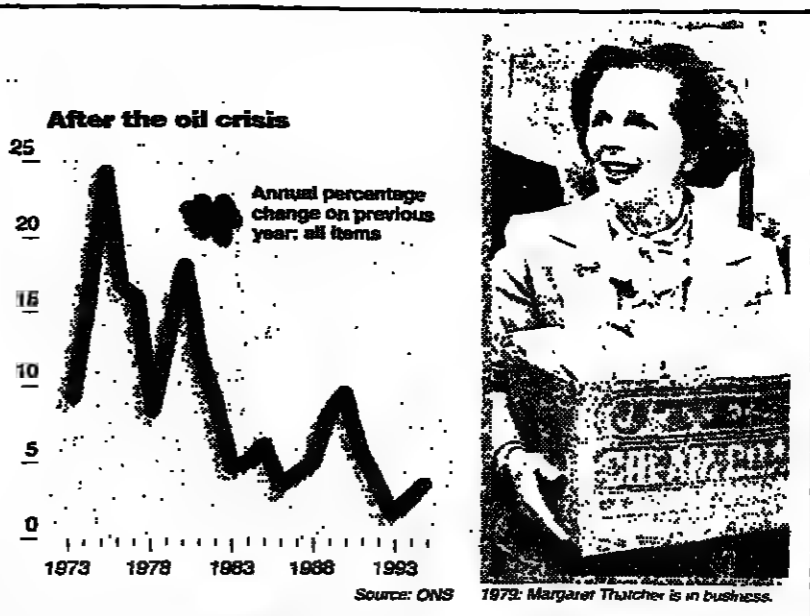
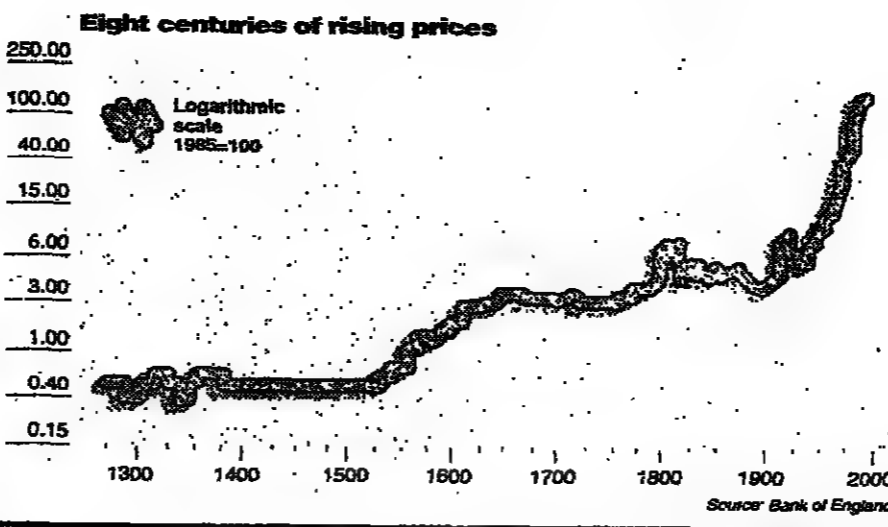


Post-coital porridge

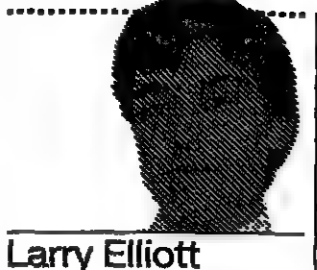
Dom lens science



The history of inflation



ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/Economy and politics vie for primacy in Budget Inflation can be controlled but not beaten



Larry Elliott

A DECADE ago, as he would readily admit, Nigel Lawson was fat. In 1985 — when, famously, the then Chancellor said in his Mansion House speech that inflation was the judge and jury of monetary policy — he was carrying plenty of excess baggage around the middle. Since then, everything has changed. Lord Lawson, as he is now, is a candidate for slimmer of the year and swaps banter with Ian Blalock and Paul Merton on Have I Got News for You.

For the second-longest occupant of 11 Downing Street this century, the transformation has been remarkable. But what of the economy? Has Britain really kicked the inflation habit or is it gearing up for another binge?

The Bank of England fears the latter. Its governor, Eddie George, has seen it all before. Like a dietary consultant, the overweight businessman comes in with all the best intentions, loses weight rapidly by way of carrot juice and physical jerks, then starts to talk about just the odd cream cake or the occasional beer. After a fortnight, that occasional pint has become one a day, then two, then three, and after three months it's time for another spell on the treadmill.

As Mr George sees it, the economy is now at the point of maximum danger: a similar position to that in 1982, when inflation was low but the authorities dropped their guard. Then, there was talk of the miracle economy and higher plateaus of achievement. Now, John Major talks of inflation being licked and the Chancellor boasts that he has discovered the alibi of non-inflationary growth.

The Governor is right to be concerned. It's his job to be. And any claim by politicians that they have tackled inflation should be treated with the utmost suspicion, particularly when an election is imminent.

Inflation is a dynamic phenomenon, which can never be beaten, only controlled. And, quite obviously, there are warning signs out there. Consumer demand is strong, consumer confidence is back to the levels of the late 1980s, house prices are rising in parts of the country and the money supply is expanding by 10 per cent a year.

Moreover, inward investment has not solved the problem of a chronic shortage of industrial capacity. Nor have the much-vaunted changes to

the labour market, and high unemployment, prevented firms from suffering from skills shortages. These shortcomings are part of Britain's cultural and historic baggage, part of an institutional structure that is traditionally far more tolerant of inflation than, say, Germany or Austria. The taste for imports generated by the reach of an empire, the lack of consensual wage bargaining, the failure of post-war Keynesians to provide a political underpinning to full employment all help to explain why a combination of financial deregulation and macro-economic mistakes led to inflation of more than 10 per cent here in the late 1980s.

The Bank believes that one way of changing the institutional framework would be to take the operation of monetary policy out of the hands of politicians altogether. Left to his own devices, Mr George would have already had a quarter-point base-rate rise, and probably a lot more besides. He is keyhole to Mr Clarke's Tigger. And yet there are reasons for a Tiggerish approach and for being cheerful about the future.

FIRST, the entire post-war era can be seen as the ebbing and flowing of price inflation. While every cycle in the Golden Age tended to leave the tide mark of inflation higher up the beach, each peak since the profound external shock of 1973 has been lower. Even though most people expect inflation to pick up over the next 12-18 months, nobody thinks it will hit the 10.9 per cent peak of the Lawson boom, let alone the 21.9 per cent of 1980 or the 28.9 per cent of 1976.

Second, there is compelling evidence that official data overstate the real level of inflation. Last week, Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve suggested that the US consumer price index was failing to take full account of technological shifts, quality improvements and the low level of inflation in the services sector. When inflation was running at 10 per cent, this under-reporting was not that significant. But now it is around 3 per cent, it could mean that the real rate of price rises is only half the official figure.

Third, the shifts in income distribution matter. Back in 1979, there were 5 million people in the UK on below-average incomes. Today the figure has risen to 13 million. While this doesn't mean that all those people have become poorer in absolute terms (most of them haven't) it does mean that they are becoming relatively poorer. As a consequence, there is a price resistance among them that is not evident among the small, affluent, richly populated Tory policies.

To take a practical example: a McDonald's child's Happy Meal costs £1.99. If it went up to £2.25 families would check out Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, etc. But if Marco Pierre White puts up the cost of one of his meals by 10 per cent, the impact on demand would be negligible.

Since recovery began, retailers have been testing the extent of this price resistance, hoping that at some point they will be able to pass on costs and rebuild profit margins. They were at it again in September, when strong high street spending in August prompted the biggest increase in clothing and footwear prices on record. The result? Early indications are that sales fell back.

The key indicator will be the labour market. Retailers will only be in a position to widen margins if workers are enjoying both increases in real wages and a modicum of job security. The annual growth of average earnings has indeed picked up, but at 4 per cent are only half the lowest level of the 1980s. But the drift to part-time work



has meant average hours worked are still down on this time last year, and few employees any longer feel wholly secure in their jobs.

Two other factors are important. First, the old post-war nexus of state-owned industry, monopolistic suppliers of labour and an oligopolistic corporate structure has been undermined by privatisation, legal curbs on labour and increased competition. The cost-plus mentality of 25 years ago has been replaced by price wars — among supermarkets, on garage forecourts, in bookshops, and now among providers of over-the-counter drugs.

SECOND, the new generation of politicians spent their formative years in the era of the Great Inflation of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and are determined not to repeat previous mistakes. That goes as much for politicians of the left, such as Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, as it does for the repre-

sentatives of the right. How will the tension between the inflation doves and the inflation hawks be resolved? Like every other Chancellor in living memory, Mr Clarke believes he can pull off a controlled expansion, balancing the risks of a short-term rise in inflation against the evidence that the economy has entered an era of global disinflation. Rightly, he seems to have little time for monetarist dogma that militates against any active policy for demand.

Even so, this is a key moment for economic policy-making. If Mr Clarke is right, the economy could enjoy several years of strong growth, low inflation and falling unemployment. But this means that fiscal policy should be tightened in the Budget, not loosened. If Mr Clarke gets it wrong, and inflation is allowed to let rip, history shows that the cost of bringing it down will be high. And the pressure for an independent Bank will become unstoppable.

Increases merely distract from real issues, argues MERVYN KING

THE most striking fact about inflation in Britain is how rapidly it rose in the post-war period. Since 1945, prices have risen more than twentyfold. No other period in our history has seen such a prolonged and rapid rise. That experience has produced an inflation generation — a generation for whom inflation is the norm.

People who are celebrating their 30th birthday this month have seen prices increase tenfold during their lifetimes. The purchasing power of £1 when they were born has shrunk to only 10p.

Does this matter? Yes — for two main reasons. First, inflation diverts resources from socially useful purposes to unnecessary financial transactions as households and firms engage in "inflation avoidance" activity. Second, high inflation usually goes hand in hand with unpredictable inflation. That variability proved very costly to those who had taken out mortgages when inflation was high or who had saved when inflation was low. The arbitrary redistribution of income generated by unanticipated inflation is unjust, and damaging to the stability of output and employment.

Increases merely distract from real issues, argues MERVYN KING

It is true that in the short run a rapid reduction in the inflation rate does lower output and raise unemployment. That is the price we have had to pay for allowing inflation to rise in the past. But once inflation has come down, as it has over the past few years, then it is sensible to keep inflation down and move steadily to price stability.

Some economists have argued that price stability would mean higher unemployment on a permanent basis. They believe that wages never fall in money terms. But changes in the demand for labour mean that sometimes real wages must fall if unemployment of particular groups of workers is not to rise.

ONLY with inflation, it is argued, will it be possible to bring about the necessary reduction in real wages. Using (American) data on the distribution of wage changes, these economists point to the high frequency of zero changes in wages as evidence of the downward stickiness in money earnings.

That argument is overstated for three reasons. First, the fact that many wage changes are observed to be zero may simply reflect the significant costs of deciding on and implementing wage agreements.

Second, productivity growth in the economy as a whole may not be as fast as we would like, but it is positive. Price stability, as I have defined it, should allow wages to grow by about 3-4 per cent a year. Over several years that permits a significant fall in real wages even if money wages do not fall.

Third, to the extent that real wages reflect changes in the demand for different types of labour rather than

the circumstances of individual firms, they are likely to change slowly from year to year. Significant falls in real wages could be accommodated in a world of price stability. And that would provide time to design policies to improve the skills and opportunities of those whose real wages were falling.

The idea that nominal wage rigidity means that we have to choose between inflation and employment is a counsel of despair. A world of price stability would look very different from the past. Monetary values would be more reliable. That in itself would be likely to reduce the degree of nominal wage rigidity.

Certainly there is no evidence of nominal price rigidity, even at the current low levels of inflation. The retail price index rose by 0.5 per cent in September. But this aggregate increase disguised the fact that 30 of the 85 published components that make up the RPI fell in September.

Equally, there is no evidence that inflation assists long-run growth rates. On the contrary, once inflation reaches double-digit levels there is clear statistical evidence that it is harmful to growth. At lower rates we simply do not have enough experience to be sure of that relationship. But monetary stability would surely do more good than harm.

Most important of all: inflation is an unnecessary problem. There are far more important economic issues that face us. Few people enter politics to keep inflation low. Nor should we expect them to do so. Price stability should be part of our economic constitution, common to all parties, providing a degree of macro-economic stability to enable governments to devote time and energy to implementing their real manifesto.

Mervyn King is executive director and chief economist at the Bank of England. The above is based on the ESRC annual lecture Monetary Stability — Rhyms or Reason?

Never mind the decline of the West, welfare and nation states, let's talk dirty about dodgy money

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

TAKE it from the top: counterfeit goods account for 9 per cent of world GDP, the black economy ranges in size from 5 to 25 per cent of GDP, bribery and fraud accounts for — oh, another 5 per cent? Then there's fraud against the European Union, estimated by some to be 10 per cent of its budget, drug-trafficking, biggest or second-biggest world industry, money-laundering and unlawful arms dealing.

Finally, there is tax evasion, which accounts for just about everything not covered in the other figures. Britain alone is owed £2 trillion at today's prices for tax dodged since 1976.

Add all these up, and you have to ask yourself whether there is a straight penny in circulation. The time cannot be far off when a criminologist or economist cuts the waffle and the gesticulates and tells it like

it is: dodginess accounts for 100 per cent of world GDP. Four old Dashiell Hammett's nightmares of a society gone entirely criminal while maintaining outward respectability may have become horrible reality. Or maybe not so horrible.

The decline-of-the-West view has tidal waves of black money crashing over the heads of defenceless nation-states, creating misery wherever it goes.

Try the alternative, propounded by Professor Ian Angell of the London School of Economics: national governments are the real gangsters, extracting huge sums from their subjects with which to bribe their supporters. The mafiosi are the liberators — the Mafia charges 15 per cent and keeps its word, nation states charge 60 per cent and do not. Criminal chieftains may replace governments, but so what? The wise will load up with hi-tech skills useful to our new masters; the foolish will continue to look to the West's bankrupt welfare states for help.

There is, possibly, a third view. Nation states remain a fortress against misfortune, inequality and gangsterism. But their rulers, crazed with notions of "open global markets", have thrown the castle gates wide open. That apart, the future's laughs all the way.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.8230	France 8.00	Italy 2.362	Singapore 2.19
Austria 16.67	Germany 2.3726	Malta 0.5695	South Africa 7.0075
Belgium 48.80	Greece 373.75	Netherlands 2.6645	Spain 199.65
Canada 2.0916	Hong Kong 11.65	New Zealand 2.1940	Sweden 10.3740
Cyprus 0.7185	India 58.55	Norway 10.10	Switzerland 1.9415
Denmark 9.1260	Ireland 0.9846	Portugal 240.50	Turkey 145.171
Finland 7.24	Israel 5.14	Saudi Arabia 5.91	US 1.55

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel) as at close of business on Friday

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR VOICEMAIL MESSAGE SERVICE IS FREE? one2one

Yes. Every new customer gets our Voicemail Message Service as standard. What's more, unlike anyone else's service, you can even pick up your mobile phone messages for free as well.

0500 500421

12 SPORTS NEWS

Racing

Graham Rock on the trainers' championship race that could reach the post at Doncaster next Saturday

Bosra Sham puts Cecil in pole position

BOOKMAKERS were betting on the outcome of the trainers' championship...



Inching ahead... Inchcailloch responds to Royston Ffrench's urging to beat En Vacances by a neck

By the end of the meeting, Cecil held a lead in excess of £50,000 and while Godolphin have supplemented both Medaaly and Asas...

He has come on a lot since Ascot, and should run very well, said Cecil yesterday.

There are 19 races worth £10,000 or more between now and the end of the season.

But realistically Godolphin need to win the Racing Post Trophy to regain the lead in the title race.

Whatever the outcome of the championship, Cecil will surely be looking forward to next year when Bosra Sham should have matured to her peak.

Taking into account allowances for age and sex, the emerged 4lb superior to Halling in winning by two and a half lengths on Saturday.

Given Bosra Sham's well-documented foot problems, described by Cecil as "sheer hell", it was an outstanding performance and Pat Eddery rated the winner as the best filly he had ridden.

When asked to compare Saturday's heroine with the great fillies he has trained in the past, Cecil called the exploits of Oh So Sharp and Indian Skimmer, eventually he settled for "at least as good" as that illustrious pair.

As she walked around the parade ring, it was obvious that Cecil's filly would not fulfil her physical potential for another season.

She seemed ideally suited by the ten furlongs of the Champion Stakes, only her sixth race, and Cecil's winter will surely be spent dreaming of further glories.

Godolphin have not yet decided whether Halling will race again, but it seems likely that the dual Eclipse Stakes winner will retire to stud.

For all their sportmanship in the winners' enclosure, it will have been disappointing for Godolphin that Halling, who had been unbeaten on turf for more than two years before meeting Bosra Sham, should have ended his career in defeat.

Time may show he was as tempting the impossible. Some consolation might be gained from the fact that the only horse to have beaten Bosra Sham is Godolphin's Mark Of Esteem...

However, one pedigree he should study further and it would not surprise me if he turned out to be Godolphin's most potent threat to Bosra Sham next year.

In the emotional aftermath of Bosra Sham's victory, any residual hostility between Sheikh Mohammed and the trainer, swept aside and the Sheikh was the first to congratulate Cecil.

For all their differences, their aspirations are identical: to win the most championship races.

King-size win for Inchcailloch

WHILE the giants were fighting out the Champion Stakes, Jeff King was basking in the glory of his most important success since he took out a dual-purpose licence 15 years ago...

Orchestra Stall came off the worst, but the officials rightly took the view that Ffrench was not to blame, and the 20-1 winner was allowed to keep the race.

King was one of the best jump jockeys of his generation, but he has enjoyed relatively modest success as a trainer.

His handling of the 7-year-old, who has now won six times on the Flat, together with three hurdle races and two chases, has been exemplary.

Fortright to the point of bluntness, King made no secret of the fact that he thought his horse should have won a year ago.

Yesterday, King had recovered sufficiently to report that Inchcailloch had come out of his race well and would now pursue a career over fences.

Sport in brief

British runners' clean sweep in Chicago

PAUL EVANS and Marian Sutton gave British marathon running its best day for a decade when they won in Chicago yesterday...

Jackman a winner and loser

ENGLAND briefly threatened the Australian world champions in the final of the Parrier Women's World Team Squash Championships...

Fifth one-day win for Tafi

ANDREA TAFI's victory in Saturday's hilly 250km Tour of Lombardy, the penultimate event in the season-long World Cup...

Barla Brits square series

ATROCIOUS conditions failed to stop the Barla Great Britain team squaring their two-Test series with the Australian Aborigines...

Childerley breezes home

STUART CHILDERLEY became the new BT/RYA match-racing champion yesterday when he defeated Steve Tylecotte in a five-race straight...

Prinosol romps to victory

GERMANY'S David Prinosol, semi-final conqueror of Tim Easman, overcame the Czech Petr Korda 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the Czech Indoor Open in Ostrava...

Chesney quickly in the clear

THE Irish rider Jessica Chesney ended the Helsinki International show in triumph last night when she won the Grand Prix with Diamond Exchange...

Pontefract card with guide to the form

Table of race results and form guides for Pontefract, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Folkestone runners and riders

Table of race results and form guides for Folkestone, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Folkestone runners and riders

Table of race results and form guides for Folkestone, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring contact numbers 0930 1681 and 203, and 103 203, 104 204.

Advertisement for Annaba, ridden by Frankie Dettori, given by Newmarket trainer John Gosden his sixth French win in 15 days when landing the Group Two Prix du Conseil de Paris at Longchamp yesterday.

Advertisement for Aimée Cook, who is in a Wolverhampton hospital with a Saturday night, is said to be "fairly comfortable".

Advertisement for Six for Gosden, featuring Annaba, ridden by Frankie Dettori, given by Newmarket trainer John Gosden his sixth French win in 15 days when landing the Group Two Prix du Conseil de Paris at Longchamp yesterday.

السبب هو ان انا

Golf

Els excels and toasts a hat-trick

David Davies at Wentworth

THE Christian names are Ernest Theodora, but if ever a man was an Ernie it is the golfer who yesterday became the first person to win the Toyota World Match Play Championship at Wentworth for three consecutive years, Ernie Els.

This amiable South African beat the Fijian Vijay Singh by 3 and 2, in front of a large and faithful crowd who trudged round a soggy and depressing West course, supporting a player who inspires affection wherever he goes.

They were rewarded by seeing history made. No one, not even Gary Player or Severiano Ballesteros, who have

Hole by hole

MORNING

Els

Out	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	3
In	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	3

Singh

Out	4	2	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
In	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3

AFTERNOON

Els

Out	5	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3
In	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

Singh

Out	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	3
In	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3

both won this title five times, has done the hat-trick and in the aftermath of victory Els set new targets for himself. Asked if he thought he could become No. 1 in the world, the world No. 3 said: "Yeah, I think I can do that. But you've got to win those big ones, win those majors, and you've got to feel you're number one. I have the confidence, I think I'm getting there. After all, I've beaten some pretty good guys here in the last three years."

The final was his ninth successive match in this event and the list of his victims reads like a compendium of the world's finest. In 1984 he beat Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal, both then at the peak of their form, followed by Colin Montgomerie in the final.

In 1985 it was Lee Janzen, Bernhard Langer and Steve Elkington, while this year he



Three-dimensional... Ernie Els drives off at the 17th yesterday on his way to becoming the first player to win the World Match Play Championship three years running

dismissed Steve Stricker, Mark Brooks and Singh. In that time he has accumulated \$500,000 in prize money, £170,000 of it yesterday, he is 63 under par for the three years and is averaging £1,634 per hole played.

He was asked what he would do with it? "I guess I've got to buy a couple of rounds in the bar," said the man who always knows when it is his turn. "I'm really going to enjoy this."

It would be difficult to imagine Singh taking the same view of victory, despite the fact that his first name

means just that. The Fijian is a golfaholic, hitting endless streams of golf balls on the practice grounds of the world, and showing little sign that there is much else in his life. He has long been one of the best players in the world not to have a major championship, but unlike another such, Montgomerie, he has never sustained a challenge in one for very long.

Yesterday he got off to the best possible start, birdying the 2nd hole and then having the 3rd conceded after Els found the trees. But instead of bunkering his tee-shot at the short 5th and then missed from 4 feet, saw Els birdie the 8th and then missed another short put, this time only three feet, at the 9th. The match had been turned round, and Singh was rarely in it again.

Part of the Els appeal is that his wet-weather gear is at best nondescript and topped as it is by a baseball cap, he looks like one of the lads — which he is when not playing golf. He also shambles, rather than marches, up to the ball, further increasing the impression of an ambling oaf.

Two shining lights lift the gloom

Richard Williams on the contrasting playing styles of a pair who refused to be unsettled by the atrocious Wentworth weather

FNIKI LAUDA had been playing Wentworth's West Course yesterday afternoon, he would have pulled into the clubhouse after a dozen holes, naked his clubs and some home to a hot bath. But golfers are made of sterner stuff.

Ernie Els and Vijay Singh kept going to the end of their contest for the World Match Play Championship, which came on the day's 54th hole, earning cheers for their efforts in dismal conditions and a sigh of relief as they reached a conclusion.

Given the setting and the season, the World Match Play has the potential to be one of the loveliest events of the sporting year. Amid the turning foliage and the carefully tended homes of retired entertainers, Wentworth's annual jamboree is to autumn what the US Masters at Augusta National is to the spring. Not this year. The gloom and the drenching rain of yesterday afternoon effectively dampened the sense of occasion.

Ernie Els didn't mind, taking the event for the third year in a row, he would probably have played through a blizzard for the chance to make his unique hat-trick. And it is hard to imagine even the worst of conditions having much of an unsettling effect on his smooth, rhythmic game.

Both of them are tall men who hit the ball to similar lengths, but their power

seems to come from very different sources, and their styles make a pleasant contrast. Els is solid and square-cut, and the strength of the exemplary swing comes from his shoulders and trunk, although it is never remotely inelegant. The bespectacled Singh, whose body slumps in repose into an S-shape, finds his power from his legs and his timing. He shows us the kind of languid grace more usually associated with left-handers.

The rain had temporarily backed off and Els was three up as they approached the par-five 12th in the afternoon session, to play their 30th hole of the day. Both drives ended up within a couple of feet of the same distance, bracketing the fairway, each in light rough. Singh hit a fine second shot, while Els bent a five-iron into a birch

Snooker

Davis quick to sink Greene

CHIVE EVERTON

IT IS 21 months since Steve Davis last won a title but so many top players have made their exits from the Grand Prix at Bournemouth in the first two rounds that the possibility of the 71st of his 18-year professional career is not to be discounted.

His 5-0 dispatch of Gerard Greene, the world No. 72, displayed the six-time world champion's consummate tactical game at its finest. He hardly hit a ball wrong, made breaks of 91 and 85 in leading breaks, and delivered a crucial thrust by stealing the fourth after needing a snooker.

"He's such a talent he'll knock the stuffing out of a lot of players," said Davis of an opponent who had taken the still notable scalp of Willie Thorne in the previous round. "In my heyday, the world No. 70 would be virtually a part-timer. These days, they are capable of three centuries in a row. The new generation is so much better than the last."

One part-timer who has managed to swim against this tide is the world No. 42 Mark Bennett, who followed his defeat of the world No. 3 Peter Ebdon with a 5-0 victory over Chris Small.

Basketball

Saunders launches the Jets to blast London Towers

ROB DUGDALE

THE Chester Jets proved their current lofty position in the BSW Basketball League is no fluke with a 91-66 win at Wembley over the reigning champions, London Towers.

"No matter what the coach says, the players are still thinking, yeah, but it's only Chester," smiled their coach Mike Burton. "We've never even got close to beating London before, because we've never had the team to do so." The key was their guard Russ Saunders. He broke the game open at the end of the first half when a combination of half-trick three-pointers and a couple of shorter range bas-

kets took Chester on a 20-4 take-off and they led 53-42 at the break.

The Jets survived a number of Towers pushes in the second half, paced by 22 points from the bulky yet effective Billy Singleton. The team, oddly enough, is sponsored by Twigglets.

At the end, there was Saunders again, ad libbing to set up Ricardo Leonard for the basket which settled the game. "I've never seen that play until we did it out there," said Burton. "Good, though, wasn't it?"

Ice Hockey

Swarming Bees shock Sheffield

VIC BATCHELDER

BRACKNELL Bees' 6-1 win at Sheffield Steelers must rate as the shock result of the Superleague season so far. It was the first home league defeat for the Steelers since December 1993, a run of 53 games.

Hockey

McGuire ends startling Guildford fightback

PAT HOLLOWAY

GUILDFORD staged a wonderful recovery from four goals down in their home National League match with Teddington yesterday to level at 4-4, only to lose 6-4 after a game full of incident.

Cricket

Wasim's record blitz of sixes

HAROLD RUSHTON in Shelkshupura

NONE of the banners around the stadium on the opening day had been welcoming to Wasim Akram. "We love Wasim, we love Aqib", read one in support of the local boy Aqib Javed whose omission from the first Test against Zimbabwe had caused resentment.

Snooker

Davis quick to sink Greene

CHIVE EVERTON

IT IS 21 months since Steve Davis last won a title but so many top players have made their exits from the Grand Prix at Bournemouth in the first two rounds that the possibility of the 71st of his 18-year professional career is not to be discounted.

Basketball

Saunders launches the Jets to blast London Towers

ROB DUGDALE

THE Chester Jets proved their current lofty position in the BSW Basketball League is no fluke with a 91-66 win at Wembley over the reigning champions, London Towers.

Ice Hockey

Swarming Bees shock Sheffield

VIC BATCHELDER

BRACKNELL Bees' 6-1 win at Sheffield Steelers must rate as the shock result of the Superleague season so far. It was the first home league defeat for the Steelers since December 1993, a run of 53 games.

Hockey

McGuire ends startling Guildford fightback

PAT HOLLOWAY

GUILDFORD staged a wonderful recovery from four goals down in their home National League match with Teddington yesterday to level at 4-4, only to lose 6-4 after a game full of incident.

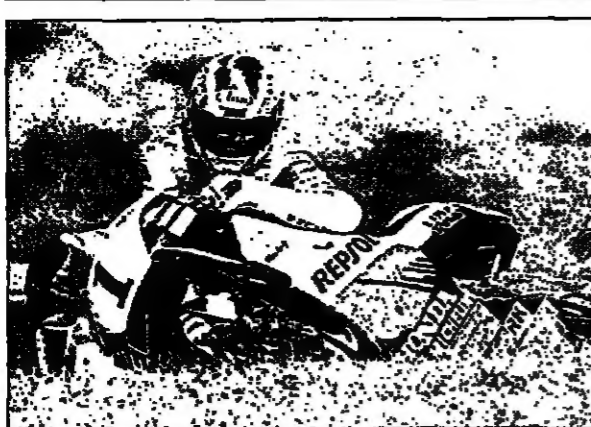
Cricket

Wasim's record blitz of sixes

HAROLD RUSHTON in Shelkshupura

NONE of the banners around the stadium on the opening day had been welcoming to Wasim Akram. "We love Wasim, we love Aqib", read one in support of the local boy Aqib Javed whose omission from the first Test against Zimbabwe had caused resentment.

14 SPORTS NEWS



Losers, winners and also-rans... the 500cc world champion Michael Doohan is left to pick up the pieces after a last-lap tangle in his home Australian Grand Prix. Tim Henman's conqueror David Prinoski of Germany delivers a double-bank



knockout to Petr Korda in the Czech Indoor final, Jana Novotna—who knows about tears—comforts Martina Hingis after a



bending her in Zurich and heavy traffic at the Eiffel Tower in the Paris 20 kilometre event won by Morocco's Habi El-Rahbi



winning the Paris 20 kilometre event won by Morocco's Habi El-Rahbi

Weekend results

Soccer

Table of soccer results for various leagues including the First Division, Second Division, and Third Division. Columns include team names, goals scored, and match status.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table of National League results for the First Division, Second Division, and Third Division. Columns include team names, goals scored, and match status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of World Championship results for various sports including Golf, Tennis, and Badminton. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of World Championship results for various sports including Golf, Tennis, and Badminton. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of World Championship results for various sports including Golf, Tennis, and Badminton. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of World Championship results for various sports including Golf, Tennis, and Badminton. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of World Championship results for various sports including Golf, Tennis, and Badminton. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of World Championship results for various sports including Golf, Tennis, and Badminton. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

Rugby Union

Table of Rugby Union results for various leagues including the Premiership and National League. Columns include team names, scores, and match status.

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

Table of Courage Clubs Championship results for various leagues. Columns include team names, scores, and match status.

GOLF

Table of Golf results for various tournaments including the World Match Play Championship. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

TENNIS

Table of Tennis results for various tournaments including the World Championship. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

BADMINTON

Table of Badminton results for various tournaments including the World Championship. Columns include player names, scores, and match status.

BASKETBALL

Table of Basketball results for various leagues including the National League. Columns include team names, scores, and match status.

HOCKEY

Table of Hockey results for various leagues including the National League. Columns include team names, scores, and match status.

WRESTLING

Table of Wrestling results for various leagues including the National League. Columns include team names, scores, and match status.

Vertical advertisement for 'SHERIFF' cigars and 'CONFUSION' darkening products. Includes text like 'SHERIFF expos cigar card' and 'CONFUSION darkening'.

SOCCER

Premiership
Middlesbrough 0, Tottenham Hotspur 3

Sheringham exposes cigarette card fallacy

Commentary
David Lacey

FOOTBALL'S cigarette card tendency, which believes that success can be achieved merely by collecting a set of well-known faces, suffered a rebuff at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday when Tottenham's superior teamwork proved an important point by taking three.

Alan Sugar, the Spurs chairman, has faced mounting criticism from supporters for not joining the Gadarene rush to snap up foreign mercenaries eager to share the new wealth of the Premiership.

Envious eyes have been cast in the direction of nouveau riche clubs such as Middlesbrough. If they can buy Juninho, Emerson and Ravanelli, then why have Tottenham been dragging their heels in the transfer market?

Widely Jürgen Klinsmann's defection midway through a two-year contract still gnawing at his soul, Sugar may feel that recent history speaks for itself. Yet Tottenham's performance in beating Middlesbrough 3-0, and the fact that they might easily have doubled their score, presents a more tangible case for prudence.

If Spurs are ever going to become serious challengers for the Premiership title, money will still have to be spent strengthening Gerry Francis's squad. The recent spate of injuries, which at times made it almost impossible for Francis to field a recognisable team, offered proof of that.

Expensive signings, however, will bring only short-term gains unless the framework of a team is basically sound. While Tottenham's win was inspired by Teddy Sheringham, at last fully fit and in form, it was achieved as much by the whole side working hard and understanding what they were about.

"Players have to think a lot to make a system work," Francis explained, "and teams can't play the same way all the time. Today we had to play a different way because, if you have four defenders marking one striker, Ravanelli, then Juninho and

Barnaby will have space to run at you." Essentially Tottenham won Saturday's game by denying the opposition space around Emerson.

Organised, industrious and imaginative, Spurs were almost everything Middlesbrough were not. Accusations that the present Tottenham team is prosaic and pedestrian are based largely on an uninspiring run at home which Francis hopes will have been ended by the win over Aston Villa. Away from White Hart Lane Spurs are a different animal altogether.

"You don't want to go a goal down to them," observed the losing manager ruefully. In fact no sooner had Bryan Robson seen Sheringham dispatch a 35-yard free-kick past a poorly positioned Miller midway through the first half than Fox, who at 5ft 6in is hardly a natural for the airborne division, darted between Middlesbrough's distantly related centre-backs to nod in a second goal from Howells's centre.

Sheringham headed Spurs third, from Carr's cross, in the closing seconds of the game. By then the England striker might already have completed a hat-trick as the home defence disintegrated.

Eleven months earlier Tottenham had become the first team to win at the Riverside Stadium, after which Middlesbrough, despite an outstanding victory over Liverpool four days later, went into a steep decline, winning three and losing 14 of their last 21 fixtures.

On Saturday's evidence it may take more than two Brazilian internationals and a ravenous Ravanelli to avoid a similar slump. Metaphorically Robson's defence is still playing with its shirt over its head. Once opponents get past Emerson in midfield there is no footballing Fitzipaldi barring their way, just Vickers and Pearson lunging slowly on rusty hinges.

Put simply, Spurs closed down the opposition in midfield before opening them up on the flanks, leaving accurate crosses to expose the soft centre of Middlesbrough's defence. Once Howells and Nielsen had disrupted Emerson's lines of communication with Juninho the home team's attack virtually ceased to function and Ravanelli was left to cope with Calderwood



Riding high... Clive Wilson leaps to congratulate his captain Teddy Sheringham on his first goal at the Riverside Stadium

and Campbell on his own. Robson, however, did not single out his defenders for specific blame. As one of England's more passionate and hard-working captains he shouldn't have done," he said. "We didn't show enough fight today. The fans deserve better than that."

Nottingham Forest 1, Derby County 1
Confusing whispers darken Forest

ANY City speculators buying around the City of Nottingham have had second thoughts about a takeover of Nottingham Forest after this mundane derby with Derby dropped them into the bottom three.

The most interesting action was taking place off the pitch, where mutters of boardroom splits, video nasties and traitors at the gate.

After the game the club issued a statement emphasizing no decision would be taken on any bids until the annual meeting on October 31. A press conference called for tomorrow was to discuss sponsorship, it said, not to announce any takeover.

Although Forest have not won since the opening day, their manager Frank Clark insisted that backstage turmoil was not to blame for last night's performance on the field.

His striker Dean Saunders backed him up: "I don't think the takeover has affected the players. We were playing badly before all this came up."

A financial shake-up at Forest seems overdue. Despite the £8.5 million sale of Stan Collymore just over a year ago, the club is in the £16 million in debt. They are being eyed by Grant Bovey, a 35-year-old who has made his money from video companies.

Bovey is willing to pay £30 million for Forest but has got on the wrong side of the directors by sending out presentational videos to shareholders "without the board's knowledge or approval", according to its statement.

takeover story, reporting that his flagship company, Watershed Pictures Ltd, owes around £1 million.

"This takeover scenario is not much help to Clark. 'It's an unsettling background but I don't see why it should affect the players - their contracts are watertight,' he said dismissively. 'Very rarely do you hear of a player being sacked.'"

"But it is surely not good for the club itself. It has almost got to the point where this big derby, an important game for both clubs, has been wiped out of the news by all the speculation that's going on about the takeover."

"Any degree of uncertainty in any organisation is not good. It causes problems and it has to be sorted out as quickly as possible." This could not be done, Clark said, until at least 28 days after the annual meeting, when another meeting would be called to recommend a course of action.

"There is more than one proposal on the table or floating around in the atmosphere," he added. But he also admitted he was being kept out of the loop and was taken by surprise when asked about rumours of a boardroom split.

"The only thing that worries me about the affair is Forest somewhere who sold a story to a newspaper that wasn't of benefit to the club. But it doesn't concern us as much as losing two points."

Those points dropped meant a point gained for Derby, who steeled their ship after two defeats through an equalising drive by Daillly after 59 minutes.

Forest should have been three ahead by then but Saunders, who opened the scoring on 75 seconds, missed two chances and fluffed another seven minutes from time.

Aston Villa 2, Leeds United 0
Unhappy returns in store for Graham

SOME time after it was all over, Norman Hunter stood, grimaced, in front of the television screen replaying the goals for the benefit of the Leeds Villa faithful. Turning to no one in particular, he vigorously condemned the defensive deficiencies that had undermined the Leeds cause. He hardly needed to add it would not have happened in his day.

Had other Leeds luminaries like Billy Bremner and Allan Clarke been with him, the verdict elsewhere would have been no less damning. "Where did it go wrong?" George Graham was asked. "At the back. In midfield and up front," came the reply.

Despite the fanfares that heralded Graham's arrival, Leeds continue to make a habit of failure and the would-be saviour has lost his September smile. He would not choose this week to make his first return to Highbury, just as he would not choose so rapid a reminder of Villa's talents as Wednesday's Coca-Cola Cup tie looks sure to provide.

Leeds could not live alongside the thought, movement and pace which make Villa unassailable on days like this. On reflection perhaps even Bite-Ver-Legs himself would have failed to stem the flow.

The grass beyond the half-way line was unfamiliar territory for the visitors but from one isolated advance, early in the second half, they found themselves behind. Hateley's failure to spot the possibility of Kelly's possession on the 18-yard line, in marked contrast to Villa awareness, put the marvellous Curcic in flight.

Hurdling Ford's desperate attempt to run him off the road, Curcic retained control, now transferring the ball to Johnson who in turn teed up Yorkie for the finish that carried just enough weight to beat Martyn. The goalkeeper was the one Leeds player who could be satisfied with his contribution.

Seven minutes later another Curcic-Yorkie combination helped Johnson underline his claims to a regular place ahead of Milosevic, the Yugoslav enigma who was left out and hardly missed. "That's the worst we have played since I arrived," Graham added. "We obviously need new players but they

have to be better than the ones going out."

We waited then for Brian Little to reveal the secret behind a performance which mocked Villa's failure to win any of their previous seven games. Surely something magical had gone into their Monday-Friday preparation?

But no. "The theme all week in training has been to remind the players of the importance of winning a football match," said the home manager with deadly seriousness. Sometimes the game really is that simple. At this moment Graham must wish it was for him as well.

Leeds' performance in this league match, were booed off by those who remained, Ravanelli may be in for a hard winter.

First Division: Tranmere Rovers 2, Queens Park Rangers 3
Sinclair raises the stakes

IF this was to be Trevor Sinclair's last game for QPR, then he signed off with a few memories, playing a part in all three of the goals that helped his team take the three points back to west London.

Afterwards, confirming the England Under-21 forward's request to leave, the QPR manager Stewart Houston said: "I don't want him to go and I have had a long conversation with him but the player has obviously thought long and hard about it and has put his request in writing."

Houston added that the Loftus Road board would consider Sinclair's request at their next meeting, probably later this week.

That goal, his tenth of the season, temporarily doused Queens Park Rangers' spirit and quelled Houston's hopes of a second win inside a week, until Alan McDonald dropped in 25 minutes later.

The QPR captain and central defender launched himself at a Sinclair corner, and when Lee Charles, courtesy of Sinclair and a Tranmere defender, made the scoreline a comfortable-looking 3-1 with five minutes left, justice was almost seen to be done.

An 87th-minute response by Ged Brannan was a minor blemish on a convincing QPR performance in increasingly difficult conditions for the droned players and referee.

Tranmere, again seriously disrupted by injuries, have now won once in eight league games, although they gamely refused to give up in a match that sees QPR rise to eighth.

League looks again to satisfy PFA's would-be strikers

THE Football League board meets today in an attempt to thrash out a peace formula that will avert a threatened players' strike over television revenue.

The result of a players' union strike ballot was to have been announced on Saturday and was expected to show an overwhelming majority in favour of withdrawing labour. At the last minute, however, the Professional Footballers' Association agreed to hold back pending further talks on the League's decision to scrap a traditional regulation that entitles the union to 10 per cent of any television deal.

"The league have said they will be putting an offer to us that they hope will be acceptable," said the PFA's chief executive Gordon Taylor. "It is an encouraging development and we just hope they're not crying wolf."

A League spokesman Chris Hull said yesterday that because the peace initiative is

in its early stages it was difficult to make any substantial statement but confirmed the board meeting will be "looking for ways to take the matter forward."

"We have always stressed that we want to get round the table with them again and we're hoping they'll enter into a spirit of co-operation."

The Arsenal midfielder David Hillier is to sign for Portsmouth for £250,000, becoming the first player to leave Highbury since Arsene Wenger took control.

Scottish Premier
Hearts 2, Celtic 2

Celtic draw short of going level

Patrick Glenn sees another missed chance to get on terms with Rangers

CELTIC gave their supporters a feeling of déjà vu in its quest-form when they failed, as they did frequently last season, to take advantage of Rangers' slip the day before.

The victory at Tynecastle which would have put them top of the table on goal difference was within touching distance when they conceded the stoppage-time equaliser which kept them in their more accustomed second place.

The draw was no more than Hearts deserved but Celtic, having established a two-goal lead, appeared guilty of complacency after Van Hooydonk had completed his double early in the second half.

The nonchalance was to be found in the Parkhead side's attack. They frequently failed to capitalise on good positions behind the home defence during a period when Hearts looked generally aimless at the other end of the field.

The Tynecastle team, who had the better of the first half but still managed to trail at the interval, should have been galvanised by Cameron's goal within seconds of Van Hooydonk giving Celtic their 2-0 lead. But their final ball into the area gave Kerr, making his competitive debut in the visitors' goal, no problems.

It was the substitute Bruno who finally delivered the high cross from the right which eluded all but the towering McPherson, who stretched his neck as he fell forward and headed the ball to the right of Kerr from 10 yards.

Van Hooydonk's low right-foot drive from a similar distance after Donnelly had dummed Di Canolo's centre from the right had given Celtic the lead and his volley from Weghorst's downward header should have been enough to secure the three points.

But from the re-start Paille released Cameron on the right of the area and the little midfielder's low drive crossed the line after hitting the post from 6 yards.

The match was an almost uncanny reproduction of Rangers' 2-2 draw with Aberdeen on a day Paul Gascoigne seemed to be the feature event.

Gascoigne seems to be diminished when he is called upon to control his temperament. Without manic commitment he becomes no more effective or important than any other Rangers player.

He had a replay with his arms at his side against Aberdeen and, apart from his brilliant goal from a free-kick, a little dink saved by Walker and an early hand in the move leading to Laudrup's goal. The English midfielder was as intrusive as a wall-flower.

It is a peculiar dilemma for Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, who realises that the temperamental energy Gascoigne brings to his normal endeavours can lead to trouble and that anything less reduces his effectiveness.

It is reasonable to hypothesise that Aberdeen would not have enjoyed the superiority they did for much of the match at Ibrox had Gascoigne not been influenced by the events of the previous few days to rein in his natural aggressiveness.

The Scottish champions imposed themselves authoritatively only for a 15-minute spell in the first half, during which they scored twice.

Even if Rangers did not dominate, the Aberdeen goalkeeper Walker had to make several important saves as well as retrieve the ball from the net twice.

Gascoigne scored first, with a beautifully controlled free-kick from 22 yards out on the right, and Laudrup followed soon after with a solo effort after Gascoigne and Gough had made the first two passes.

But the goals which Irvine, before half-time, and Dadds, two minutes from the end, scored ensured Aberdeen would take the minimum they deserved.

Golf
Els marches
to his third
World Match
Play title

13

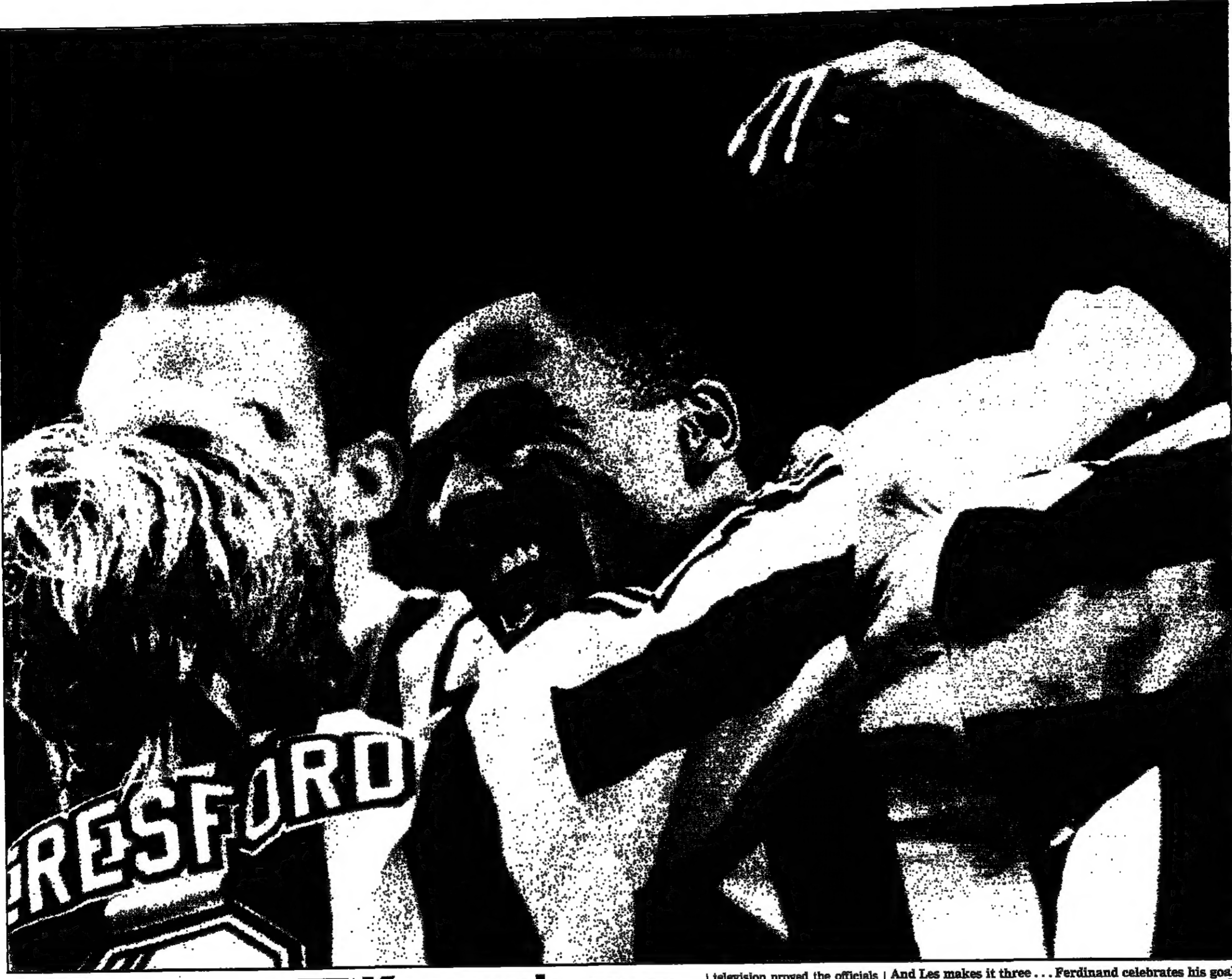
Soccer
Celtic miss
chance
to break
Rangers' grip

15

SportExtra

Premiership: Newcastle United 5, Manchester United 0

Newcastle are in seventh heaven



'These supporters travelled all the way down to London to see us in the Charity Shield and we were beaten 4-0 and that's what I reminded the players'

Kevin Keegan

'It was sweet revenge. But I still think whoever finishes above United will win the league'

Alan Shearer

'The game did not reflect the quality we put into it. It's the first time in my career I've lost five goals as a manager'

Alex Ferguson

Keegan's men are top dogs and gain a sweet revenge

David Laoy

THE ghosts of Manchester United will no longer trip quite so lightly across Newcastle's grave. In fact after yesterday's sharp spot of exorcism at St James' Park it will surely take no more than a couple of bars of the Blaydon Races to send violent shivers down Old Trafford's spine.

Alex Ferguson's team came to Tyneside undefeated in the Premiership this season and unbeaten by Newcastle United in a league fixture for nine years. They went home chased and chastened, routed 5-0, their heaviest defeat not only in Ferguson's 10 years at Old Trafford but in his 22 years as a manager.

The victory, Newcastle's seventh in succession in the Premiership, has returned them to the top of the table, which they now lead by three points. Statistically, with just over a quarter of the programme completed, that may not mean much but psychologically the result may be of enormous significance in Kevin Keegan's attempt to win the title lost to Manchester United last season.

When the champions outplayed Newcastle in the FA Charity Shield, winning 4-0 at Wembley in August, the script for this season appeared to have been written. Yesterday, however, Keegan's players ordered a rewrite. With Shearer hitting a post and Ferdinand and Batty

missing sitters, United were fortunate to escape an even more severe stalling. To their credit Ferguson's players, and particularly the youngsters, kept going to the end and were forcing saves from Srinicek even after the fifth goal. But Cantona was fortunate to stay on the field, having been cautioned for a shove which somersaulted Albert over the byline, he caught Beardsley with a crude late tackle 10 minutes later.

At the heart of Newcastle's victory lay the dominance in midfield which Batty and Lee achieved over Johnsen and the hard-working Butt. Add to this a revived performance from Ginola, some inspired moments from Beardsley and the fact that Shearer is as good a creator as he is a scorer, and this was as complete a victory as Newcastle could have wished for.

'We really looked like a team that were on a mission,' said Keegan afterwards; a mission that began last March when Cantona's lone goal at St James' Park finally lifted the championship Old Trafford's way.

Manchester United never really recovered from falling behind to a hotly contested goal just before the quarter-hour. After Ginola had set up a chance for Ferdinand, whose shot was deflected behind, the Frenchman's corner was won in the air by Shearer and the ball found its way to Peacock. Irwin thought he had cleared the centre-back's stooping header off the line but the linesman signalled a goal and

television proved the officials correct.

Poborsky having merited a Bafta award for his dive over Srinicek, the contest began to move beyond Manchester United's grasp on the half-hour. Beardsley and Beresford found Ginola on the left and once more he cut inside, this time pivoting in front of Gary Neville to release a marvellous right-footed shot into the top far corner of the net.

By half-time Shearer had driven a 30-yard shot low against the left-hand post and St James' Park was baying for more goals. The crowd were not to be disappointed although had Poborsky's header, which Srinicek blocked five minutes into the second half, been better directed Newcastle might have suffered a return of some bad old vibes.

As it was, the celebrations began in earnest in the 62nd minute when Ferdinand met Shearer's cross from the right with a header that looped over Schmeichel and in off bar and post. With a quarter-of-an-hour remaining, Shearer scored a fourth from the rebound after Schmeichel had parried Ferdinand's shot, and Albert rounded things off in the 83rd minute with a supremely impudent fifth goal, chipping Schmeichel from 20 yards.

In the closing seconds a fat bald-headed man raced across the pitch and knelt in front of Keegan, arms raised in homage. The rest of St James' Park probably felt like doing the same. Rarely are United brought to their knees as they were yesterday.

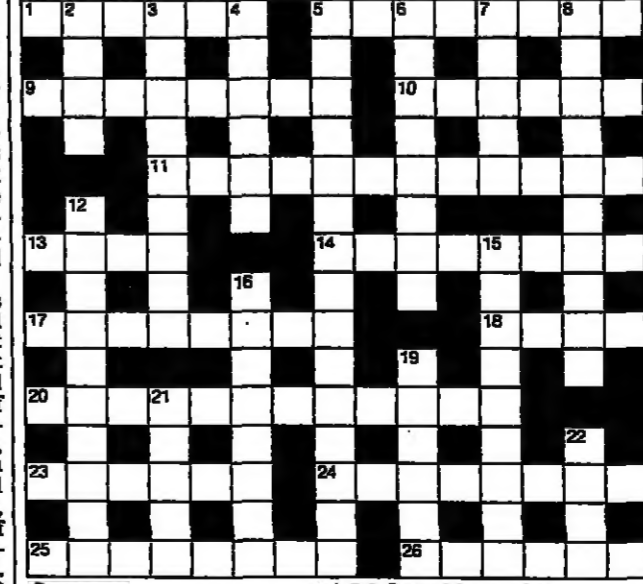
It was the champions' heaviest defeat since Dave Sexton's Manchester United side lost 6-0 at Ipswich on March 1, 1980, and the first time they had conceded five goals since losing 5-1 to Manchester City at Maine Road in September 1989.

'At least we kept it,' said Ferguson without attempting to offer any excuses for the rout. Manchester United wore red yesterday but went home looking just a little grey.

And Les makes it three... Ferdinand celebrates his goal with Beresford and Peacock as Newcastle, who kicked off yesterday with exactly the same side that lost the Charity Shield to Manchester United 4-0 two months ago, more than made up for their disappointing showing at Wembley

Guardian Crossword No 20,789

Set by Logodaedalus

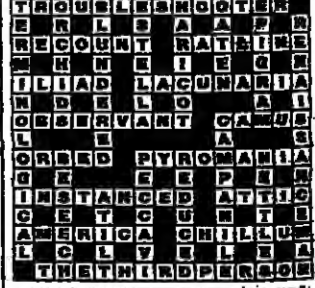


Across

- 1 Sailor taking raincoat is seen at airport (6)
- 5 Round cat hedged in by large cat in this place (6)
- 9 Start of hockey game with Hector not available (5-3)
- 10 That church has a roof covering of straw (6)
- 11 Mad Hatter design is unravelling (12)
- 13 Writer shows life to be about right (4)
- 14 Stage coach starts track going round within a month (8)
- 17 This seat is wrecked by unbelievers (8)
- 18 Curiously, Tom did any way (4)
- 20 Safekeeping of quiet sanctuary (12)
- 23 The focal point of Innocent revelry (6)

Down

- 2 Fever for all to witness in time (4)
- 3 Aid to walkers - silly men lose it (9)
- 4 They sing about one carried by tailless horse (6)
- 5,8 I fillet Joe's obscure raw fish after cooking; so being here's a very nice thing! (4,2,4,1,4,2,8)
- 6 This is making prisoner infectious (8)
- 7 Worry while breaking small peg on golf course (5)
- 8 see 5



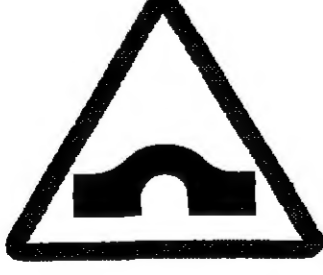
WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLES: £20,789

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are C. Collins of Harrogate, Harrogate; George P. Bennett, of Fife, Scotland; E. Jagger of Beckenham, Kent; M. B. Pate of West Bridgford, Nottingham; and Mrs. S. Speakman of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

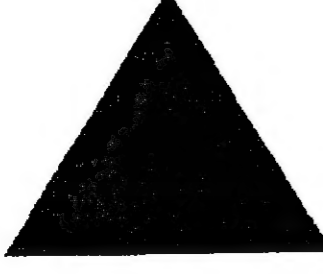
- 12 Gail: Elizabeth conceals the bird under it (10)
- 15 Durant repaired with pin for casual cricketers (3-5-5)
- 16 Customers holding up well-known insurance company will take without asking (8)
- 19 Mum is coming up fast (6)
- 21 Short fight sounds like second tennis encounter (3-2)
- 22 Unhappy in Cambridge? (4)

Solution tomorrow

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 238. Call cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 40p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by AT5



Hump bridge.



Leave the bridge well alone.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

OFFICIAL DOG